



MRO Business Today salutes women in MRO

The percentage of female aircraft maintenance engineers and technicians rose from 2.7% to 3.0% worldwide, with increases being seen in all regions except the Middle East and Africa.

Every year, as March the 8th draws nearer a buzz starts in the aviation industry. Suddenly everyone wants to know how many women are a part of the core operations in aviation like pilots, engineers, ground handlers? Is the number increased or decreased from the previous year? Discussions and debates on TV and internet make noise about how to increase overall women participation in core aviation circles. The discussions, inspirational stories are circulated via social media, word of mouth etc and then...within a month or so, the discussion dies. Everyone settles back in their comfort zones and all the buzz about increasing the active participation of women in aviation maintenance take a back seat, only to be reclaimed the next year.

This has been happening for years now, and in spite of numerous articles and research on the subject Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) figures reveal a dismal 3% of women in aviation maintenance globally.

MRO Business Today is a proud media partner of a global premier MRO Summit that has contributed in celebrating the contribution that women have made in the aviation sector. The Aerospace Media Group at the 4th Aerospace & Defence MRO South Asia Summit hosted a special session on the role of women in aviation and gathered women from all fields in the aviation sector to celebrate their contribution to the growth of this male dominated industry. The session was graced by some very hardworking and promising young minds along with some seasoned leaders who shined in the sector by carving out an identity for themselves in harder times.

The 5th edition of the Aerospace & Defence MRO South Asia Summit took it up a notch by honoring the contribution made by women at the "MRO Excellence



■ Ashmita Sethi, President & Country Head, Pratt & Whitney receiving the Wings of Change Award from Mr. RK Patra, Editor in Chief of the Aerospace Media Group.

Awards 2024” where Ashmita Sethi, Country Head of Pratt & Whitney was awarded the “Wings of Change Award” highlighting her achievements in leading one of the industry giants into a bright future. The Aerospace Media Group will continue to support and motivate the highly talented and inspiring women in Aviation with every edition of our premier MRO event and XPO.

The 6th MRO South Asia Summit co-located with the MRO XPO India & AIRCRAFT INTERIORS India to be held on 26-27 March 2025 at the India International Convention & Expo Centre (Yashobhoomi), Dwarka, New Delhi will focus even more on recognizing the contribution of women around the globe in elevating our industry to newer skies.

Interestingly percentage of female aircraft maintenance engineers and technicians rose from 2.7% to 3.0% worldwide, with increases being seen in all regions except the Middle East and Africa. The highest increases in this area were again recorded in the Latin America/Caribbean and Asia Pacific regions, and the Asia Pacific region also had the highest global percentage of licensed female aircraft maintenance engineers and technicians with 4.4%.

ICAO's latest global survey on the status of licensed aviation personnel by gender reveals that the participation of women holding positions as pilots, air traffic controllers, and maintenance technicians has increased on an overall basis from 4.5% globally in 2016, to 4.9% in 2021.

Today, as the International Women's Day is celebrated all over the globe, we aim to look at some of the organisations that are silently working throughout the year and striving for Women's rights and increasing the overall confidence of women aspiring to be aviation engineers.

One such major organisation is Association of Women in Aviation Maintenance (AWAM). It is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of championing women's professional growth and enrichment in the aviation maintenance fields by providing opportunities for sharing information and networking, education, fostering a sense of community, and increas-

ing public awareness of women in the industry.

AWAM is run 100% by volunteers. No committee member, chapter leader, or national board member receives any compensation for the work and time they put in to championing women in aviation maintenance. AWAM is led by passionate women and men who devote evenings, weekends, vacations, and breaks to putting our programs together. Travel costs are out of their own pockets, event supplies often are too. Donations from corporate partnerships do not pay anyone's salary. They go directly into scholarship, mentoring, and outreach programs and our most basic operating costs, like web hosting and the costs of our exhibit booth.

Stacy Rudser, President at Association for AWAM recently shared a LinkedIn post. She said, "Women make up less than 3% of FAA certificated aviation maintenance technicians, a number that has remained stagnant for decades. It takes commitment from the highest levels of leadership in schools and industry to enact meaningful change."

Aviation Australia has a dedicated program called FAME (Female Aircraft Maintenance Engineer) program. FAME is an aviation industry-first initiative designed to support and nurture the future female aircraft maintenance engineers as they build their careers in a traditionally male-dominated field. FAME gives an opportunity to young women aspiring to be future AMEs to be a part of growing female engineering community by increasing female participation in the aircraft maintenance engineering workforce across Australia, by providing students with support from key networks and industry throughout their studies

Interestingly this year, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) India has planned to introduce a framework to promote the expansion of the female workforce in India's civil aviation sector. The country already boasts a 15% female pilot force, which is three times higher than the global average but this initiative aims to further enhance gender inclusivity in aviation.

During the recently held, Wings India event some statistics regarding Women in Indian aviation came forward.



India currently has

- 15% women as ATC (Air traffic Controllers)
- 11% women as in-flight dispatch including cabin crew
- 13% women at mid-managerial levels

"Amidst the exponential growth of India's civil aviation sector, it is indisputable that the skies are expansive, offering ample space for the inclusion of more women. The launch of a new framework, featuring enhanced mentorship and sponsorship programs, will empower and catalyse this advancement. This framework will also propel Indian aviation into a more gender-inclusive future," said Jaideep Mirchandani, chairman of aviation major Sky One.

"The proposed framework should also delve into a thorough examination of the opportunities and challenges as far as women's participation and leadership in STEM fields are concerned. This will facilitate a comprehensive approach to empowerment," adds Mirchandani.

One of the most common challenges that women face while entering the career of aviation maintenance is culture. Not just in Asian countries, but the concept is widely accepted that AME is a male-favoured and male-dominated industry with little to zero-tolerance to women. This deeply ingrained patriarchal mindset serves as an attitudinal obstacle and inhibits women's progress in traditionally male-dominated fields like aircraft maintenance.

The most common belief that aviation is a male-dominated industry stamps the gender stereotype and marks them as unsuitable for technical jobs.

The factors influencing female students enrolling in aircraft maintenance technology are explored in several

papers. One study found that there is a significant demographic disparity between men and women in the aircraft maintenance technician field, with only 2.3% of the certified aircraft mechanic workforce being women. The study aimed to understand why most women choose not to become aircraft mechanics and found that factors such as perception of physical limitations, career appropriateness, work environment safety, social acceptance, and advancement opportunities influenced their interest in the field.

Another paper discussed the readiness of the aircraft maintenance training industry to produce effective and efficient technicians for the future air transport system. It highlighted the challenges of balancing the skills of technicians for older and advanced aircraft, high attrition rates, and ineffective training methods. The paper suggested implementing a holistic approach and collaboration among stakeholders to address these challenges.

Recent research into women's perspective on the aircraft mechanic career field revealed that a large majority of women felt unsure or negatively about their potential promotion opportunities and social acceptance.

Since the first women obtained her aircraft mechanic license about a century ago, the growth in women in AME sector has been ridiculously slow. Yes, we still occasionally see a women mechanic donning safety gear repairing an aircraft. Also, many of the MROs across the globe has mandated a specific number of women per shift as a part of their daily routine. Steps like these along with relentless work of certain organisations, various regulatory authorities and support from all the aviation stakeholders will definitely encourage more women to come forward and embrace the wonderful field of aircraft maintenance engineering.

All-in-all let a women's contribution in the field of aviation maintenance or any aspect of life be remembered all through the year, even in the remaining 364 days and not just the one day dedicated to her. She deserves and commands much more than she gets, so come, let us give her the respect she deserves.



CFM to support the signs LEAP-1B engines powering American Airlines' Boeing 737 MAX fleet

The CFM International agreements encompass the acquisition of spare engines and include a new 20-year service agreement that covers both existing LEAP-1B engines and those for its future fleet of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

CFM International has solidified agreements with American Airlines, Inc. (American) for the provision of LEAP-1B engines to power the airline's Boeing 737 MAX 8 and MAX 10 fleet. These agreements encompass the acquisition of spare engines and include a new 20-year service agreement that covers both American's existing LEAP-1B engines and those for its future fleet of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The commitment to CFM's LEAP-1B engines extends beyond the Boeing 737 MAX family, as American currently operates 303 CFM-powered Boeing 737 Next-Generation aircraft. The decision to continue the partnership with CFM underscores American's confidence in the asset utilization, performance, and environmental benefits offered by CFM's engine technology.

The CFM LEAP engine family is known for its advanced technology, providing 15% to 20% better fuel consumption and reduced CO₂ emissions compared to previous-generation engines. Ad-

ditionally, the LEAP engine delivers a substantial improvement in noise levels. Since its introduction into service in 2016, the LEAP engine has played a significant role in helping CFM customers reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 32 million tons.

"Over the past decade, we have invested heavily to modernize and simplify our fleet, which is the largest and youngest among U.S. network carriers," said Devon May, Chief Financial Officer, American. "We're very pleased to partner with CFM to service our entire Boeing 737 MAX fleet with newer, more efficient engines so we can continue to deliver the best network and record-setting operational reliability for our customers," he further added.

CFM International, a 50/50 joint venture between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines, has been a pioneering force in international cooperation since its establishment in 1974. The company has been instrumental in shaping the course of commercial aviation and

currently stands as the world's leading supplier of commercial aircraft engines. CFM's product line, featuring the LEAP family of engines, sets industry standards for efficiency, reliability, durability, and optimized cost of ownership.

"American's continued commitment to the LEAP-1B demonstrates trust in the asset utilization, performance and environmental benefits that our products deliver," said Gaël Méheust, president and CEO, CFM International. "We are committed to proving that American has made the right choice, as the CFM team works each day to deliver world-class products and services that our customers can rely on," he further added.

The LEAP engine's success is a testament to its technological advancements and its positive impact on reducing the environmental footprint of aviation. The long-term partnership between CFM International and American Airlines underscores the continued commitment to pushing the boundaries of innovation and sustainability in the aviation industry.

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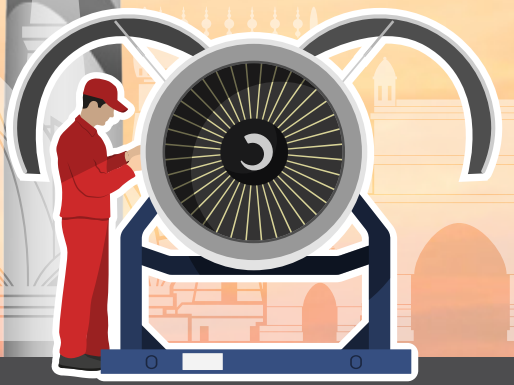
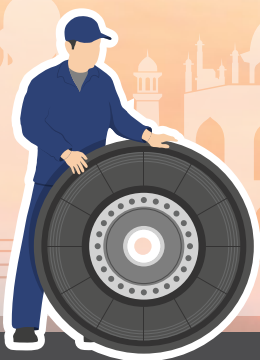
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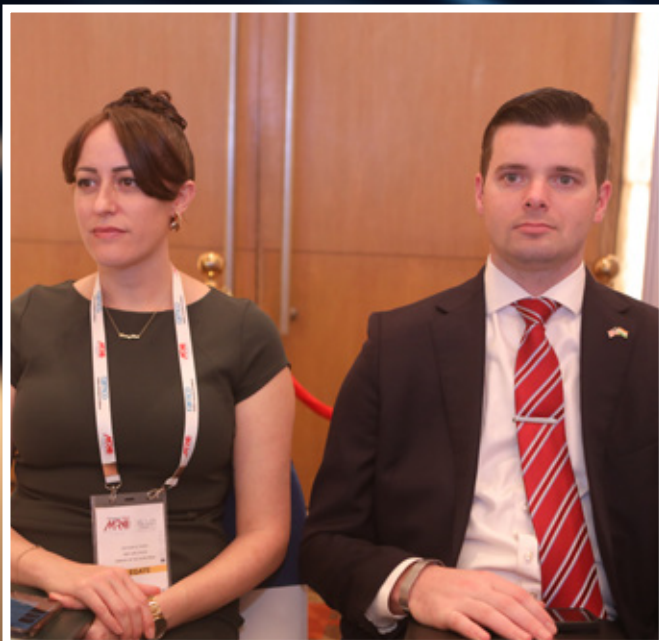


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GE Aerospace to invest \$650 million in manufacturing facilities

Of the \$650 million, \$450 million will go towards new machines, inspection equipment, building upgrades, and new test cells and safety enhancements at 22 GE Aerospace facilities.



■ In addition to the investments, GE Aerospace is hiring more than 1,000 employees for open external positions at its US factories.

GE Aerospace is all set to invest \$650 million in its manufacturing facilities and supply chain this year to increase production and strengthen quality to better support its commercial and defense customers. These investments are a part of next chapter for GE Aerospace as the company embarks on its new journey as a standalone company starting this spring.

Of the \$650 million, \$450 million will go towards new machines, inspection equipment, building upgrades, and new test cells and safety enhancements at 22 GE Aerospace facilities across 14 states while an additional \$100 million will go to supplier partners based in the United States.

"We are making significant investments in the future of flight and in the dozens of communities and supplier partners helping us build it," said H. Lawrence Culp, Jr., chairman and chief executive of GE and chief executive, GE Aerospace. "These investments will support cutting-edge equipment and

safety enhancements that will help us meet our customers' growing needs," he further added.

The breakup of the rest of the funds is as follows:

- ✦ \$54 million will be invested in Auburn site for additional additive (3D printing) machines and tooling to increase the production of military rotorcraft engine components, along with narrow and widebody commercial aircraft engines.
- ✦ Additive manufacturing is a critical technology that allows for greater performance and fuel efficiency while reducing weight and part count.
- ✦ \$30 million will go to Lynn site for investment in engine assembly and testing that supports the production of US and allied military helicopter and fighter jet engines. Additional investments will be used for facility maintenance and upkeep, and build on investments made in 2023.

- ✦ \$46 million to four North Carolina facilities that produce parts and assemble engines for either narrowbody or widebody commercial engines to meet growing demand.
- ✦ Asheville will receive \$11 million for high-precision machines used to produce critical components;
- ✦ Durham will receive more than \$7 million for tooling and equipment to increase the assembly capacity of engines;
- ✦ West Jefferson will receive almost \$5 million for quality inspection equipment and high-tech machinery.
- ✦ Wilmington will invest \$22 million for machines and specialized tooling to increase capacity.
- ✦ \$107 million to facilities in the greater Cincinnati region for additional additive manufacturing machines, new tooling and equipment, and modernization and upgrades to test cells will allow the company to increase production capacity of engines used in commercial aircraft and in U.S. and allied military helicopter and fighter jets.

The \$100 million will strengthen the company's US supply chain, helping suppliers build and maintain capacity and capabilities needed for sustained growth. Suppliers provide materials (castings and forgings) and some early-stage parts for commercial and military engines.

To support its customers operating around the globe, GE Aerospace also plans to invest approximately \$100 million at some of its international sites in North America, Europe and India.

"This is an investment in the future of manufacturing, ensuring we can continue producing high-quality, cutting-edge engines and services while meeting customer demand," said Mike Kauffman, Supply Chain Vice President, GE Aerospace.

Many of these investments are being made as the result of employees and leaders coming together to find ways to improve safety, quality, delivery and costs, through our lean operating model, FLIGHT DECK. In addition to the investments, GE Aerospace is hiring more than 1,000 employees for open external positions at its US factories.

RTX's Pratt & Whitney to provide GTF engines for 35 Icelandair selects Airbus A320neo family jets



Pratt & Whitney, has secured a deal with Icelandair, for GTF engines to power up to 35 new Airbus A320neo family aircraft with the order comprising a mix of leased and purchased A321XLR and A321LR aircraft.

Pratt & Whitney, a business under Raytheon Technologies, has secured a significant deal with Icelandair, which has selected GTF engines to power up to 35 new Airbus A320neo family aircraft. The order comprises a mix of leased and purchased A321XLR and A321LR aircraft. With this transaction, Icelandair becomes a first-time customer for Pratt & Whitney's GTF engines. The airline has also opted for an EngineWise agreement to cover the long-term maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) needs of its GTF engines. Pratt & Whitney will provide comprehensive support to facilitate the smooth entry into service and long-term operation of the engines.

"With these GTF-powered A321XLR and A321LR aircraft, Icelandair and Pratt & Whitney are renewing a relationship, which started more than 80 years ago," said Rick Deurloo, president of Commercial Engines, Pratt & Whitney. "These engines and aircraft are well-suited to serve Icelandair's growing transatlantic network, while delivering industry-leading fuel efficiency and low CO2 emissions," he further added.

Founded in 1937, Icelandair holds a unique position connecting North America and Europe, centered around the strategic location of Iceland. The airline started operating Pratt & Whitney Wasp engines in the 1940s, and over the years, it has utilized Pratt & Whitney turbojet and

turbofan-powered aircraft.

"With these GTF engines, we will maximize the range and efficiency of our new Airbus aircraft," said Bogi Nils Bogason, president and CEO, Icelandair. "Furthermore, the GTF engines will help us reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions by up to 30% per seat, compared to the 757s they will replace, which will support business and environmental objectives at the same time. We expect our passengers to experience the initial A321LRs starting in 2025, and the first A321XLR beginning in 2029," he further added.

The Pratt & Whitney GTF engine, featuring Collins Aerospace nacelle and engine accessories, is known for delivering industry-leading fuel efficiency and sustainability benefits for single-aisle aircraft. The geared fan architecture of the GTF engine is considered revolutionary and serves as the foundation for more efficient and sustainable propulsion technologies in the future. Pratt & Whitney continues to advance its engine technologies, including offerings like the Pratt & Whitney GTF Advantage engine.

Icelandair anticipates the initial A321LRs to enter service in 2025, followed by the first A321XLR in 2029. This strategic choice aligns with Icelandair's goals of enhancing operational efficiency, reducing environmental impact, and providing a positive experience for passengers.



Airinmar to provide component support for Philippine Airlines fleet

Under the agreement, Airinmar will collaborate with Philippine Airlines's Aircraft Material Management team to deliver services that contribute to the recovery of aircraft warranty entitlements and reduce the cost of component repair.

Airinmar, a subsidiary of AAR, a global aerospace and defense aftermarket solutions company, has signed a multi-year support services extension with Philippine Airlines (PAL). The extension focuses on providing a comprehensive suite of support services, covering both aircraft warranty and value engineering, to enhance PAL's Aircraft Material Management activities. Under the agreement, Airinmar will collaborate with PAL's Aircraft Material Management team to deliver services that contribute to the recovery of aircraft warranty entitlements and reduce the cost of component repair. The extension builds on the successful partnership initiated at the start of 2020 and underscores Airinmar's commitment to value engineering and solid warranty management.

PAL recognizes the value of Airinmar's expertise in engineering knowledge and comprehensive support services,



aligning with the airline's safety and efficiency goals. The partnership aims to drive down PAL's operational maintenance costs, contributing to sustained improvement goals and supporting the airline's growth strategy.

"Since we implemented Airinmar's services at the start of 2020, Airinmar has been a trusted partner. We appreciate their commitment to value engineering and solid warranty management, which has contributed to meeting Philippine Airlines' safety and efficiency goals," said Alvin Kendrick Limquenco, PAL SVP, Supply Chain Management

Group. "We will continue to leverage Airinmar's comprehensive engineering knowledge and expertise to help drive down PAL's operational maintenance costs and thereby contribute to our overall sustained improvement goals," he further added.

Airinmar's value engineering support will focus on delivering cost savings by ensuring supplier compliance with PAL's contracted component repairs and minimizing out-of-scope repair charges for components' flight-hour requirements. The aircraft warranty management services provided by Airinmar cover the identification, claim, and recovery of multiple aircraft warranty entitlements from manufacturers such as Airbus, Boeing, and de Havilland and their suppliers.

Airinmar, with 35 years of experience, has been a trusted partner for airlines, MROs, OEMs, helicopter operators, and military programs. The company specializes in providing tailored component repair and warranty management support services, leading to reduced repair expenditure, improved component availability, and enhanced operational efficiencies.

"We are delighted to extend our successful relationship with PAL and continue working alongside their Aircraft Material Management team to reduce maintenance costs across PAL's multiple fleet types," said Matt Davies, General Manager, Airinmar. "We are excited to be part of PAL's growth strategy as their fleet expands with new aircraft deliveries in the coming years," he further added. AAR, the parent company of Airinmar, is a global aerospace and defense aftermarket solutions company operating in over 20 countries. The company supports commercial and government customers through its four operating segments: Parts Supply, Repair & Engineering, Integrated Solutions, and Expeditionary Services.

Philippine Airlines (PAL), the flag carrier of the Philippines, is known for being the country's only full-service network airline. PAL operates a diverse fleet of Boeing, Airbus, and De Havilland aircraft, serving both domestic and international destinations. The airline is recognized for its hallmark warm and gracious Filipino service, supporting the global economy through air cargo and charter services.



Image Courtesy: Stacey Rudser

WOMEN IN MRO

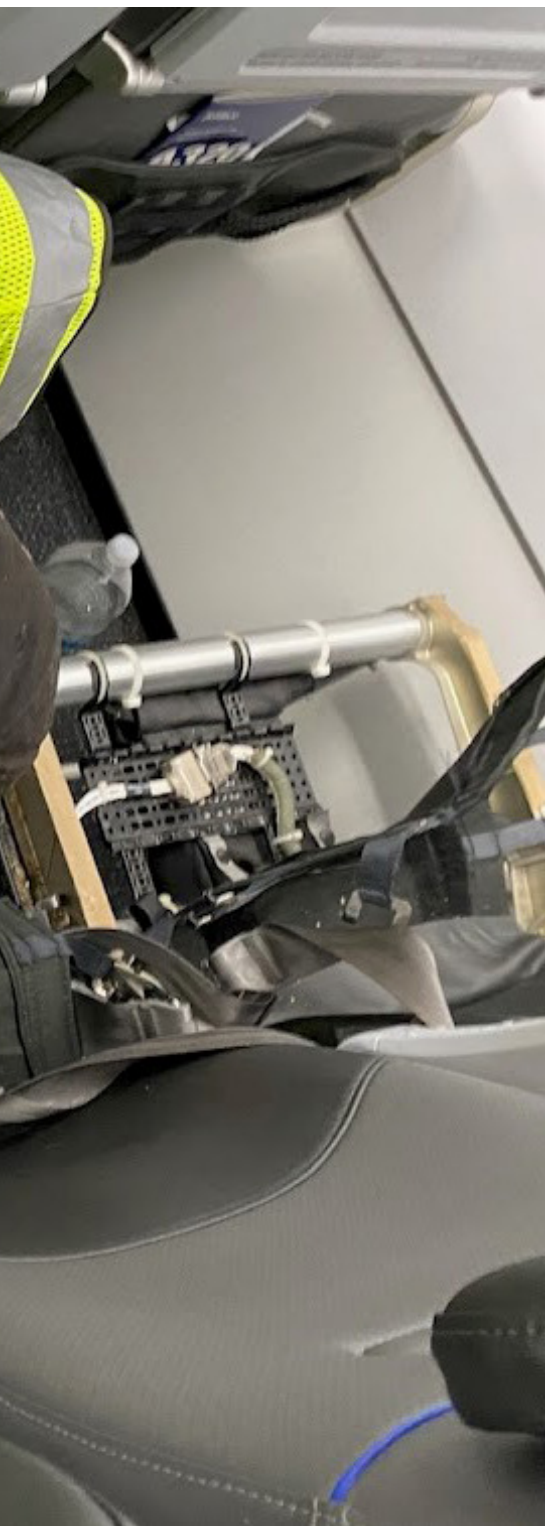
Those pink boots sported by Stacey Rudser at work as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician at Thales, Florida (US) speak a thousand words. From waiting tables and working in a customer service role to searching the internet on how to be an aircraft mechanic, Rudser got on to her starting block as she

enrolled in an airframe and powerplant (A&P) school.

Thanks to ladies like Rudser and her ilk, women have carved out their rightful place in a male-dominated realm as Aircraft Maintenance Technicians, and are here to stay. "Getting to hit airplanes with hammers, who wants to say no to that? It is great fun," said

Rudser as she embarked on her journey as an aircraft maintenance technician (AMT) at Thales in Orlando, Florida, and a director for the Association of Women in Aviation Maintenance (AWAM).

It all takes the right training and that dash of inspiration and passion that ignite a journey where the sky is the limit for women. Yet, that yawning



aviation mechanics are men.

Through the AWAM platform, certain significant changes are constantly being sought, about scholarships and mentorship programs, and bettering the processes for recruiting and retaining such talent/skills in the industry. "Having those mentors and those resources are the biggest help in retaining the aviation workforce," Rudser says.



Image Courtesy : Wikipedia

Phoebe Jane Fairgrave Omlie (November 21, 1902 – July 17, 1975) was an American aviation pioneer, particularly noted for her accomplishments as an early female aviator. Omlie was the first woman to receive an airplane mechanic's license, the first licensed female transport pilot, and the first woman to be appointed to a federal position in the aviation field.

aviation, electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft, and other new aviation segments.



Image Courtesy : Australian War Memorial: Women's Auxillary Australian Air Force flight mechanics

The challenge then is to reduce the attrition rate which is high amongst women maintenance technicians. Bringing about flexibility in work schedules, eradicating discriminatory work cultures, and ensuring a safer working environment for women are steps that will go a long way in attracting talent and growing the pool worldwide of women aircraft maintenance technicians.

The introduction of aviation maintenance courses at educational institutions, and good career counselling can be a source of encouragement for girls looking to build a solid career and to generate interest amongst female students, where hitherto they traditionally stayed away from pursuing STEM fields.



Image Courtesy : US Air Force: Airforce-tactical-aircraft-maintenance

gender gap is striking. In 2009 Rudser became the first woman graduate of the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Orlando. Even in the US - a mature aviation market, the percentage of certified women aircraft technicians is a meagre 2.62% of the total, according to the U.S. Civil Airmen Statistics. However, according to Zipper, 9.3% of aviation mechanics are women and 90.7% of

Therefore, spreading awareness of such a platform in different regions across the globe is key to increasing the number of women in the aircraft maintenance force. More such skilled female technicians can add to those numbers with skill requirements in the new age/existing mobility segments, like rotorcraft, business aviation, general

FEATURE

It is a fact that women bring unique skill sets to the profession that include a keen attention to detail and importantly a humane and empathetic leadership style. These qualities stand out in sharp contrast to the somewhat 'rough' environment in male-dominated maintenance job setups.



■ Ashmita Sethi, President & Country Head of Pratt & Whitney received the Wings of Change Award (Women in Aviation) from Mr. RK. Patra, Editor-in-Chief, Aerospace Media Group for inspiring women in aviation across the globe.

“
Women today no longer need to conform to a stereotype-oriented model to succeed. My philosophy is... be who you are! Be yourself. This not only brings diversity to the table but also ensures that we as women leaders bring an authentic perspective on how to tackle the problems that businesses are facing today
”

Ashmita Sethi, President & Country Head of Pratt & Whitney

Ashmita was recently recognized and rewarded with for her leadership role in the aviation space, in the presence of leading luminaries from the aerospace and Defence MRO sector - at Aerospace Media Group's signature Summit the 5th Aerospace & Defence MRO South Asia Summit 2024, New Delhi, India.

Chix Fix- Aviation Maintenance

Another interesting and exemplary initiative rolled out at United Airlines in the US, is Chix Fix- an all-female team of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians who participate in an annual Aerospace Maintenance Competition. Regarded as the Olympics of aerospace tech the Chix Fix team participates each year, in the commercial category, and has come off 'tops' in several categories. Here, competitors come in teams and are required to carry out certain MRO work and finish within a given time, as set by the judges.



Some Inspirational Tales

According to a Chix Fix team member, an initiative like this helps get the "... exposure out there that women can do this job, not a lot of people realize that women do this job." This would work well and showcase women's power and talent in this male-dominated bastion across the globe. A thumbs up for Women in MRO indeed.

A young Ms. Tabeer Bilal, an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer by training, in India, has this to say: "It's really challenging for a Woman to set a footprint in the Aviation Industry."

"We can say it was more of male dominating industry earlier. Every day is a new challenge. Times have changed and we have moved on but whenever it comes to a Job Role in Aviation, a resume of women would change all the perspectives and the interviewer will not question her based on their



■ Ms. Tabeer Bilal Tak - Regional Sales Manager-India, Wright Aero Components, based in New Delhi, India

expertise or skills, they will always have this thing in mind will she be able to do it??" Tabeer rightfully adds "Let's make it a game of equality."

"The industry is modernized but there are many changes we need to bring in our industry to make it an equal platform for women to work."

Alice H. Parker having received a certificate from Howard University Academy way back in 1910, and is credited to be the inventor of the central heating system (those days using natural gas), not realising that this would lead to the discovery of the modern-day HVAC system. 'Necessity is the mother of invention' they say, and researching for better ways to warm her house led her to inventing the central heating system and patenting, using natural gas in 1919. It is this invention that provided a basis and concept for the way modern HVAC systems work - ducts in the system were used to heat different areas. This made history as Alice Parker became one of the earliest women of colour to be granted a US patent.



■ Image Credit: LinkedIn: Stephanie Pope, Boeing Chief Operating Officer

Stephanie Pope, Boeing Chief Operating Officer, and formerly Head of Boeing's Global Services, (including MRO services) do women proud, as she has taken charge of complex and reliable services for her customers, where safety and reliability are a given. Ms. Pope exalts her team's efforts and achievements in India, and she exclaims, "In partnership with Air Works Group Private Ltd, we celebrated the successful completion of the eighth P-8I airframe heavy maintenance inspection for the Indian Navy. I couldn't be prouder of this team for their collaboration and steadfast commitment to our Indian customers. Across Boeing Global Services, we're committed to meeting our customers' needs and ensuring they have the readiness they need to achieve their missions. Thanks to all of our #ServiceChampions who contributed to this milestone!"

Women AMEs like their male counterparts are engineers, technicians, and mechanics, and more, like - scientists and educators. All and everything that



Image Credit: Alaska Airlines

keeps assets safe in the air.

In 2009, AWAM became a national FAA Team member with the FAA Safety Team. In 2010 AWAM was honoured to be recognized by and receive a \$10,000 grant from The UPS Foundation which assists in securing its electronic infrastructure to connect with members and the world to support women in the aviation technical fields.

Aircraft maintenance engineering is an internationally licensed program and draws from the finest of trained and skilled personnel. As is any branch of engineering, in India, Aircraft Maintenance Engineering is regarded as a respectable and serious career option

that women may consider. Given the male domination in this sector, women maintenance engineers account for 5% to 6%. Thus, going beyond pursuing the roles of airline pilots and cabin crew. A growing number of women applicants are seen, for women aircraft maintenance roles, according to the Indian Institute of Aeronautics Group. A high-demand job that pays good dividends.

Scope for Aircraft Maintenance Engineers / Technicians

A certified qualified AME is employable in several aviation-related fields Airlines, Maintenance, Repair and Overhauls (MRO) industries, Aircraft Manufacturing companies such as Airbus, Boeing, aviation organizations like ICAO, EASA, Flying clubs, Aviation training centres, and Civil Defence Force.

Source

IIagroup.co.in
aviationmaintenance.edu
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First Aviation Services and Piranha Aerospace collaborate to offer Airbus Helicopter aftermarket services

This collaboration enables First Aviation to provide main rotor blade repairs for the Airbus Helicopter operating community, with Piranha Aerospace serving as the preferred sales channel.

First Aviation Services Inc., a prominent provider of aircraft parts manufacturing, component repair and overhaul, and rotables management, has expanded its capabilities by adding main rotor blade repair services for the AS350/H130 model aircraft. Historically known for its significant presence in the Black Hawk market, First Aviation and its subsidiary, Aviation Blade Services, Inc., have partnered with Piranha Aerospace to offer rotor blade repair capabilities for the AS350/H130.

Piranha Aerospace, based in Boulder City, NV, is a membership-based distributor of aftermarket parts and services. This collaboration enables First Aviation to provide main rotor blade repairs for the Airbus Helicopter operating community, with Piranha Aerospace serving as the preferred sales channel.

The addition of AS350/H130 main rotor blade repair capabilities is part of First Aviation's growth plan, representing the first of multiple models to

be added in 2024. This strategic move aligns with the company's commitment to expanding its offerings in the rotary-wing MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) market.

Paul Bolton, COO, First Aviation said, "The addition of these Airbus Helicopter rotor blade capabilities marks a significant step in the company's growth plan and is the first of multiple models to be added in 2024. We are very excited to be partnering with Piranha as we leverage both companies' outstanding reputations in the industry."

First Aviation Services Inc. is headquartered in Westport, Connecticut, and operates several principal subsidiaries, including Aerospace Turbine Rotables, Inc., Associated Aircraft Manufacturing & Sales, Inc., Aviation Blade Services, Inc. (East and West), Evölution Aerospace, Inc., Master Support, Inc., and Piedmont Propulsion Systems, LLC. The company provides a range of services, including the repair and overhaul of

aircraft landing gear systems, helicopter rotor blades, actuation systems, structures, IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) systems, lighting, power supplies, oxygen and fire suppression systems, hydrostatic testing, crew masks, and propellers from Dowty, Hamilton, Hartzell, and McCauley.

Tony Bohm, Principal, Product Development, Piranha said, "First Aviation has made a major commitment to the rotary wing MRO market. They are the right partner to expand capabilities in support of the AS350/EC130 operator."

Piranha Aerospace operates as a private membership-based distributor focusing exclusively on its Members' needs. The company customizes its product and service offerings to provide a concierge aftermarket solution for major helicopter operators, aiming to reduce direct maintenance costs through predictable pricing, optimized product offerings, product availability, and personalized customer service.

Lufthansa Technik Component to support MIAT Mongolian Airlines' Boeing 787 fleet

Lufthansa Technik will provide component support for MIAT's Boeing 787 fleet involving the implementation of Total Component Support and provide MIAT Mongolian Airlines with access to Lufthansa Technik's global parts pool.



■ Signing Ceremony at MRO Middle East: Munkhgal. E (Head of Material Management MIAT Mongolian Airlines), Batmunkh. S (Technical Director MIAT Mongolian Airlines), Andreas van de Kuil (Vice President Sales Central Europe & CIS, Lufthansa Technik) and Maksim Koklov (Regional Sales Director, CIS, Lufthansa Technik).

Lufthansa Technik and MIAT Mongolian Airlines have formalized a long-term contract to enhance the component support for MIAT's Boeing 787 fleet. This strategic collaboration involves the implementation of Total Component Support (TCS) and provides MIAT Mongolian Airlines with access to Lufthansa Technik's global parts pool. The agreement aims to significantly increase the availability of spare parts for MIAT's Dreamliner fleet, contributing to improved operational efficiency and reliability.

MIAT Mongolian Airlines, the national flag-carrier of Mongolia, operates from

its base in Ulaanbaatar and serves major hubs in Asia and Europe. The airline's commitment to connecting the world with reliable and efficient air services aligns with its mission, emphasizing the highest quality and warmth in customer service. The utilization of Lufthansa Technik's TCS for the material supply of its Boeing 787 fleet reflects MIAT's dedication to ensuring the seamless operation of its aircraft.

"Based on our mission to connect the world with reliable, highest quality, warmest, and efficient air services, we look forward to working with Luf-

thansa Technik and benefiting from their extensive experience and proven Total Component Support for the material supply of our 787 fleet," said Batmunkh.S, Technical Director, MIAT Mongolian Airlines.

The partnership provides MIAT Mongolian Airlines with access to Lufthansa Technik's extensive global network of material and parts pools, enhancing the airline's ability to procure critical components swiftly. Lufthansa Technik's robust logistics infrastructure, including 15 global component stocks on three continents, supports the efficient transport and delivery of required components to customer aircraft. This strategic collaboration is expected to reinforce MIAT's operational capabilities, ensuring timely and reliable services for its Dreamliner fleet.

"We are very pleased that MIAT Mongolian Airlines has chosen us to supply components for their Dreamliner fleet. With access to our global network of material and parts pools, we will provide the best possible support to our valued customer and look forward to our collaboration in the years to come," said Andreas van de Kuil, Vice President Sales Central Europe & CIS, Lufthansa Technik.

As one of the leading providers of technical aircraft services globally, Lufthansa Technik operates as a certified maintenance, production, and design organization. With over 22,000 employees worldwide, the company offers a comprehensive range of services for commercial, VIP, and special mission aircraft. Lufthansa Technik's expertise encompasses maintenance, repair, overhaul, and modification of airframes, engines, components, and landing gears, as well as the manufacture of innovative cabin products and digital fleet support.

The collaboration between MIAT Mongolian Airlines and Lufthansa Technik is part of the broader efforts to strengthen the global MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) ecosystem. By leveraging Lufthansa Technik's capabilities and expertise, MIAT Mongolian Airlines aims to enhance its maintenance and operational capabilities, contributing to the growth and sustainability of its Dreamliner fleet operations.

AFI KLM E&M provides component support for Bonza Airline

AFI KLM E&M signs agreement to support Bonza's growing fleet of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft with comprehensive component support services.

Bonza, Australia's new low-cost airline, has partnered with AFI KLM E&M, a leading provider of maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for the Boeing 737 platform, to ensure the smooth operation of its growing fleet. This agreement signifies a significant step forward for both companies, with Bonza gaining access to AFI KLM E&M's extensive expertise and global reach, and AFI KLM E&M further expanding its footprint in the Asia-Pacific region.

Tim Jordan, CEO, Bonza said, "For a growing airline like ours that currently has a smaller fleet, we need to ensure that all our aircraft are operational so that we can deliver the best performance and experience for our customers. AFI KLM E&M's equipment solutions, including the pool access program, are a response to this requirement, and we are confident that their know-how and global experience of the 737 product will be invaluable in delivering smooth operations for our fleet."

The comprehensive support package offered by AFI KLM E&M encompasses a

wide range of services, including:

- **Repair services:** AFI KLM E&M will provide access to its global network of repair facilities to ensure prompt and efficient maintenance for Bonza's aircraft components.

- **Pool access:** Bonza will have access to a pool of spare parts, minimizing downtime in case of unexpected component issues.

- **Main Base Kit (MBK):** AFI KLM E&M will provide Bonza with a readily available stock of critical spare parts at its operational base, further enhancing response times.

- **Logistical and AOG (Aircraft on Ground) support:** AFI KLM E&M will offer logistical support for the efficient movement of components and provide assistance in resolving AOG situations, minimizing disruptions to Bonza's operations.

Tommaso Auriemma, VP Sales Asia & Pacific at AFI KLM E&M, said, "We are honored by the trust placed in us by Bonza. By signing this agreement, AFI KLM E&M is extending its footprint in the 737 market in Oceania, and also

enhancing the relevance and attractiveness of its solutions on all generations of the 737, including the MAX. We look forward to supporting the development of Bonza's operations, a young and dynamic airline, through a long-term cooperation, starting with component support for their fleet."

This partnership is particularly crucial for Bonza, a growing airline with a young fleet, as it emphasizes the importance of maintaining high aircraft availability and operational efficiency. By leveraging AFI KLM E&M's proven track record and expertise in supporting Boeing 737 aircraft, Bonza can ensure its passengers a seamless and reliable travel experience.

For AFI KLM E&M, this agreement represents a strategic opportunity to expand its presence in the Asia-Pacific market and showcase its capabilities in supporting the latest generation of Boeing 737 aircraft. The company is confident that its comprehensive support package will be instrumental in Bonza's continued success and looks forward to a long-term partnership with the dynamic Australian airline.





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Etihad Airways receives three new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners

Etihad Airways celebrates the arrival of three state-of-the-art Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, furthering its network expansion and offering passengers a comfortable and technologically advanced flying experience.

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, received three brand new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners to its fleet. This significant addition marks a crucial step in the airline's ambitious growth strategy, "Journey 2030," which aims to see Etihad flying to 125 destinations with over 160 aircraft by 2030. These fuel-efficient Dreamliners will play a key role in Etihad's network expansion plans, enabling the addition of new destinations like Boston, Nairobi, and Bali, alongside summer routes to popular European locations. This expansion aligns with Etihad's commitment to connecting Abu Dhabi to the world and supporting the city's tourism industry.

The 787-9s join a growing fleet of Dreamliners, bringing the total to 43, and contribute to Etihad's commitment to sustainability with their fuel efficiency. Stepping onboard the new Dreamliners, passengers are greeted

by Etihad's award-winning signature style, featuring a comfortable and spacious cabin environment. The two-class configuration offers 32 Business Suites and 271 Economy seats, each designed to provide exceptional comfort and entertainment options.

Antonoaldo Neves, Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Airways, said, "We are thrilled to welcome these brand-new, state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliners to Abu Dhabi. Their arrival is key to our network expansion strategy and comes at the perfect time as we continue to add multiple new destinations and expand frequencies into key markets. These new aircraft support our commitment to Abu Dhabi, allowing us to bring more guests to experience the incredible capital of the UAE, either as their end destination or on a stopover when connecting across our expanding network."

The Economy cabin features lighter, fuel-efficient seats, providing increased

legroom in both standard and Extra Legroom options. Passengers can access the latest in-flight entertainment through 13.3-inch 4K touch-screen monitors with the option to pair personal devices for remote control. Additionally, high-speed Wi-Fi with streaming capabilities and Live TV keep passengers connected and entertained throughout the flight.

The combination of network expansion, fuel efficiency, and a luxurious cabin experience solidifies the airline's position as a leading carrier in the region. The Business Suites boast a unique and customized version of the Elements seat, offering direct aisle access, a fully lie-flat bed, a large 4K TV screen, and ample storage space. Passengers can enjoy convenient features like Bluetooth headphone pairing, wireless charging, and multiple charging ports, ensuring a seamless and relaxing journey.

AAR acquires Triumph Group's Product Support business

AAR CORP has concluded its acquisition of Triumph Group's Product Support business, a global provider of specialized maintenance, repair, and overhaul capabilities for aircraft components in both commercial and defense markets.

AAR CORP, a prominent provider of aviation services to commercial and government operators, MROs, and OEMs, has successfully concluded its acquisition of Triumph Group's Product Support business. Triumph Group's Product Support business is a leading global provider of specialized maintenance, repair, and overhaul capabilities for critical aircraft components in both commercial and defense markets.

The completion of the acquisition marks a significant milestone for AAR, strengthening its repair capabilities, expanding its global footprint, and enhancing its ability to cater to customers worldwide. The transaction, which involved an aggregate purchase price of \$725 million in cash, was initially announced on December 21, 2023. The financing for the acquisition was facilitated through the proceeds from AAR's \$550 million notes offering and borrowings under its amended revolving credit facility.

John M. Holmes, Chairman, President, and CEO, AAR said, "The completion of this acquisition scales AAR's repair

capabilities, expands our footprint in the APAC region, and enhances our ability to serve our global customers. We're excited to welcome more than 700 team members from the Product Support business who bring expertise in key areas to the AAR team."

AAR operates as a global aerospace and defense aftermarket solutions company, with a presence in over 20 countries. Headquartered in the Chicago area, the company serves commercial and government customers through four operating segments: Parts Supply, Repair & Engineering, Integrated Solutions, and Expeditionary Services.

With the successful completion of the acquisition, AAR is poised to leverage the added capabilities and expertise from Triumph Group's Product Support business to further enhance its position in the aviation services industry. The strategic move aligns with AAR's commitment to providing comprehensive and specialized solutions to its diverse customer base in the aviation sector.

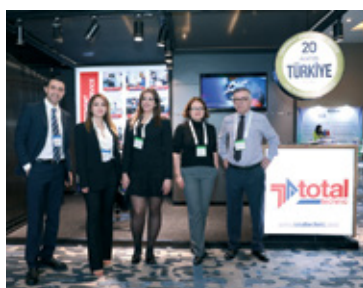


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The Flightpath of Innovation:

David M. Ikeda Discusses STS Component Solutions' Technological Edge

*STS Component Solutions, a key player within the globally renowned STS Aviation Group. Discover how STS Component Solutions ensures the highest standards of safety and compliance in its MRO operations, fosters collaborations to enhance service offerings, and leverages cutting-edge technologies to stay ahead in the dynamic aviation industry. Join us as we explore the company's adaptability to market trends, commitment to sustainability, and unwavering dedication to meeting industry standards and client expectations. In this insightful interview, **MRO Business Today** engages with **David M. Ikeda, Vice President-EMEA of STS Component Solutions**. **READ ON...***

Q - Can you provide an overview of STS Component Solutions and its role within the broader STS Aviation Group?

A - On-time delivery of certified aircraft parts lay at STS Component Solutions' core. We specialize in materials management, OEM distribution, supply chain solutions and rotatable inventory in 9 strategic warehouses around the world. Our global inventory support compliments STS Aviation Groups maintenance services with our OEM distribution lines, which feature well known original equipment manufacturers



(OEMs) such as ACME Aerospace, Curtiss Wright, Eaton, MarathonNorco, SAFRAN and many more.

In today's fast-paced world of aircraft parts distribution, STS Component Solutions is the one global company that can provide the aircraft inventory and on-time delivery you need to keep flying! Global Aircraft Inventory Solutions 24/7/365

Q - How does STS Component Solutions ensure the highest standards of safety and compliance in its MRO operations?

A - STS Aviation Group provides a full suite of aircraft maintenance program and reliability capabilities. With a team of highly-specialized analysts and technical writers, STS can provide turnkey solutions for updating, or creating, customer's aircraft maintenance programs. We offer the highest standards in customized maintenance programs, time limit manuals and maintenance program task cards, updates to current OEM, MRB and /or MPD manuals, New fleet entry into service manual updates, Create, revise and audit of maintenance program task cards and work instructions, Maintenance program escalations for all large-transport-category aircraft, Maintenance program bridging services for acquisitions, lease returns and escalations, Ad-hoc reliability analysis for all airframes, powerplants and /or components.

Q - Collaboration is crucial in the aviation industry. How does STS Component Solutions foster partnerships and collaborations with airlines, OEMs, and other industry stakeholders to enhance its service offerings?

A - STS Component Solutions is proud to work as partners with our OEMs, as a truly global extension of their brand and organisations, ensuring we have the relationships, presence and customer focus required to honor our commitments. The key to success is engaging our partners in our business, offering a unified approach to solutions and identifying new opportunities. Another key service offering is our Enterprise approach to our customers. We engage at all levels and incorporate our services from Material and Engineering Solutions, Base and Line Maintenance, through to Work Force Management to encompass every facet of our business which touches and benefits our customers as a one stop shop for Aircraft related maintenance. STS Component Solutions is proud to host our annual OEM Symposiums, facilitating dialogue with our manufacturers and end users, to better understand new developments and align our strategies, individually. Every piece of the STS puzzle here matters.

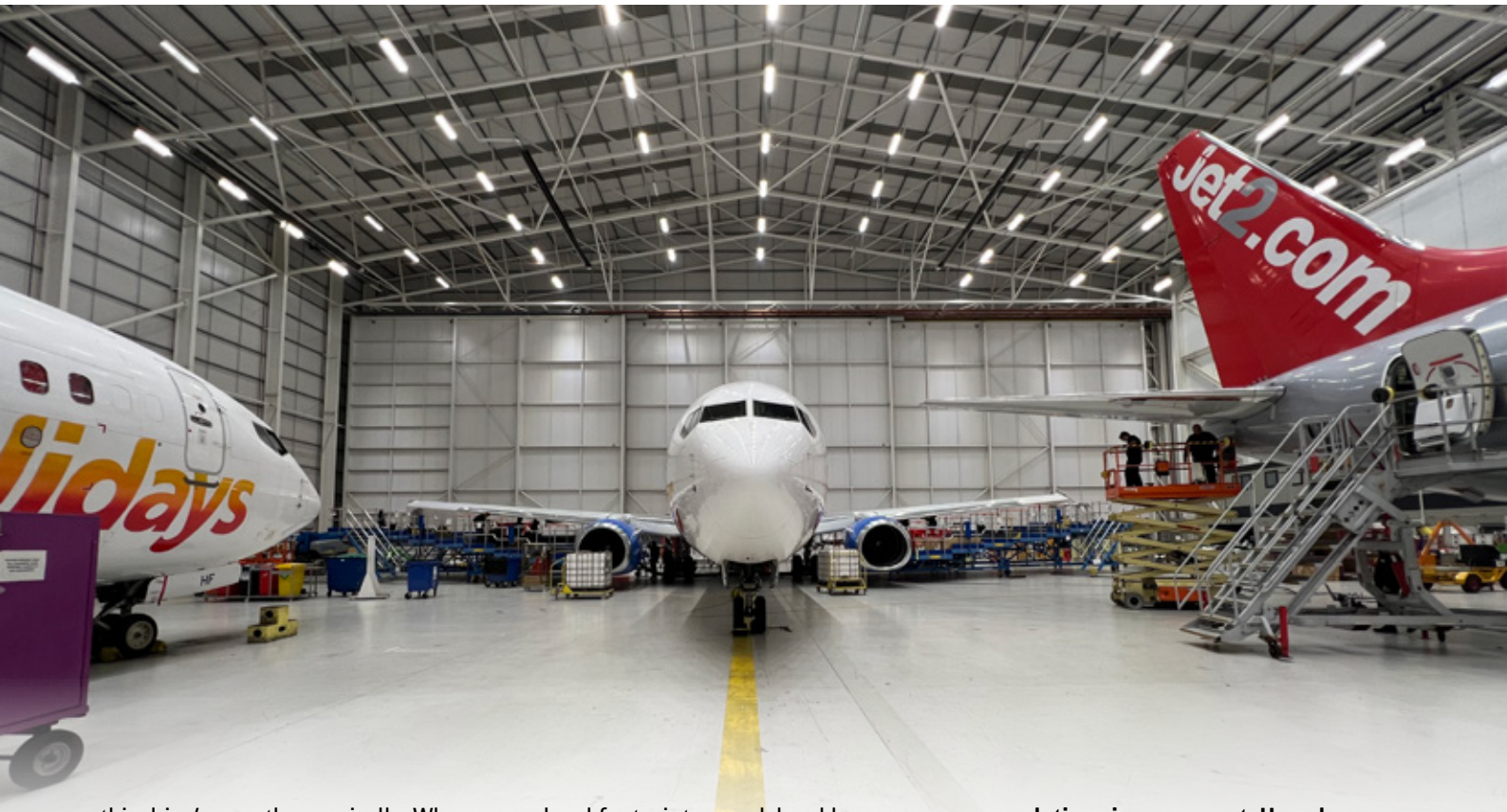
Q - Technology plays a vital role in

aviation. How does STS Component Solutions leverage advanced technologies and innovations to enhance its MRO services and stay ahead in the industry?

A - Over the years, STS Component Solutions has invested considerable resources into the development of a technical database that enables us to forecast projected aircraft parts demand so we can continue to stock and maintain global inventory based on anticipated needs. Quite often, we sell and distribute the exact aircraft and / or engine part(s) that you are looking for. If not, we'll utilize our extensive technical resources and conduct an in-depth search to locate the components you need while also helping to eliminate the high-cost associated with material shortages. Electronic data interchange (EDI), LOKAD and Tableau reporting enable best-in-class solutions to leverage our cost and inventory experience, in tandem with established predictive maintenance software to minimize customer cost and maximize utilization and efficiency through out all aspects of supply chain and aircraft heavy maintenance visits. By linking our communication tools with our customer systems, this alleviates unwanted surprises and aligns expectations.

Q - Are there specific technological trends or advancements that you see influencing the future of aircraft component solutions and MRO services?

A - Presently, it is all about availability and supply chain. Post COVID, considerable challenges remain in obtaining raw material, manpower allocation and production stability to keep pace with the global demand for both new airplane and aftermarket spare parts. This directly impacts the ability to release aircraft from the hangar on time and within cost constraints. By default, this means better, more robust planning and forecasting models are key for a company like STS. We place emphasis on utilizing customer data, usage files and working closely with our customers across STS Aviation Group to identify trends and any algorithms which aid our total solution offering through fact-based intelligence. We automate our quote activity to provide faster response times globally, as



this drive's growth organically. Whereas PMA, surplus spare parts and alternative maintenance techniques have some influence here, the most prominent theme is availability and specifically STS being laser focused on getting inventory levels in line with demand but more so, getting factory production times to deliver to these, consistently.

Q - The aviation industry is dynamic, with constant changes and trends. How does STS Component Solutions adapt to market trends and evolving customer demands to stay competitive and relevant?

A - I believe one of our strengths is the ability to adapt to different markets, different cultures, different ways of doing business. STS has grown phenomenally fast, an entirely different beast from when I first started here 11 years ago. Throughout that time, one trait remained the same. Our nimbleness. Being able to anticipate and diversify. It says a lot about an organization that can marry experience and traditional business acumen with the need to adapt, make quick business decisions and pivot when opportunity arises. Another core strength is our people. We evolve because they evolve. STS have

local footprints, speak local languages and understand the fundamentals of our customer base, all of which enable us to remain one step ahead of the competition in the markets we choose to operate in.

Q - Sustainability is an increasingly important consideration. How does STS Component Solutions address sustainability concerns in its operations, and what initiatives are in place to minimize the environmental impact of its services?

A - STS Component Solutions utilizes an almost paperless environment, minimizing the use and consumption of material where possible. We offer a flexible work schedule for remote/office based attendance to minimize commutes and offset this using greener travel alternatives. Incentives are offered to employees. Additionally, our logistics team consist of Certified Hazardous Material Inspectors, offering customers consolidated shipping and electronic invoicing alongside reduced packaging materials to minimize our carbon footprint daily in all of our hangars, warehouses and offices globally.

Q - Ensuring compliance with aviation

regulations is paramount. How does STS Component Solutions navigate the complex regulatory landscape to meet industry standards and client expectations?

A - STS Component Solutions is committed to providing the highest level of quality, documentation and logistic services to clients. Our unwavering dedication to excellence ensures that your aircraft and engine components will arrive on time, with the proper certifications and support documentation.

STS Component Solutions meets the requirements of the Aviation Suppliers Association (ASA) and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) Advisory Circular 00-56A. We continually evaluate our processes to ensure that we are always providing the highest level, and current, quality assurance services to, and for, our customers.

It is the policy of STS Component Solutions to verify the end use and end user in all sales, including drop shipments, of U.S. manufactured products and other foreign manufactured products from the STS Component Solutions' facility. Because the products you are purchasing may be exported and used outside of the United States, please complete the End User Certification.

FL Technics LLC UAE strengthens GCAA approval from L4 to L5 in UAE

By achieving maintenance approval with L5 in its GCAA CAR 145 certification, FL Technics UAE has extended its capabilities to encompass a broader scope of services including authorization to perform aircraft modifications.



FL Technics, a globally recognized aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services provider, has recently expanded its commitment to quality and reliability by extending its General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) CAR 145 certification from L4 to L5. This strategic move fortifies FL Technics UAE's standing as a premier provider of comprehensive aviation maintenance solutions in the Middle East region.

By undergoing a rigorous evaluation process and achieving maintenance approval with L5 in its GCAA CAR 145 certification, FL Technics UAE now extends its capabilities to encompass a broader scope of services. This includes authorization to perform aircraft modifications, ensuring that the company is well-equipped to address the evolving needs of airlines operating in the region.

Arif Alameri, Accountable Manager, FL Technics LLC UAE said, "In extending our GCAA CAR 145 certification with L5 maintenance solutions, FL Technics reaffirms its commitment to providing unparalleled maintenance solutions. This strategic move enables us to offer

a broader spectrum of services, catering to the evolving needs of our clients. We are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of safety, quality, and regulatory compliance."

In conjunction with the recent announcement of FL Technics being the first independent aircraft maintenance provider in the new Abu Dhabi Airport Terminal A, the extension of the GCAA CAR 145 certification positions FL Technics as a key player in offering more comprehensive and specialized maintenance solutions at the forefront of the market. This strategic move allows the company to provide tailored services that go beyond routine maintenance, meeting the diverse and evolving requirements of its clients in the United Arab Emirates and the broader Middle East.

Operating from Abu Dhabi Terminal A, FL Technics strategically positions itself as a hub for MRO services focused on narrow-body commercial aircraft in the region. The terminal's central location and FL Technics' expertise create a synergistic relationship, enhancing operational efficiency and contribut-

ing to the growth of the local aviation ecosystem.

Zilvinas Lapinskas, CEO, FL Technics Group said, "The achievement of L5 certification by FL Technics LLC UAE represents a significant milestone not only for our UAE operations but for the entire FL Technics Group. It reflects our constant growth and commitment to serve the needs of our clients worldwide. With L5 certification, we are poised to elevate our standards and expand our reach, delivering top-tier solutions to airlines globally and reinforcing our position as a trusted industry leader."

FL Technics LLC UAE's enhancement of the GCAA CAR 145 certification with L5 maintenance solutions marks a significant step forward in the company's pursuit of excellence in aviation maintenance. This strategic move positions FL Technics UAE as a leading provider of comprehensive MRO services, further solidifying its commitment to delivering top-tier solutions to airlines operating in the United Arab Emirates and the broader Middle East.



Airbus launches CityAirbus NextGen

The newly unveiled Airbus two-tonne CityAirbus classified features a wingspan of approximately 12 meters, being developed with an 80 km range and a cruise speed of 120 km/h, making it well-suited for various missions in major cities.

Airbus has unveiled the prototype of its full-electric CityAirbus NextGen, designed for urban air mobility, ahead of its planned maiden flight later this year. The two-tonne CityAirbus is classified in the two-tonne category and features a wingspan of approximately 12 meters. It is being developed with an 80 km range and a cruise speed of 120 km/h, making it well-suited for various missions in major cities.

The public presentation of the CityAirbus NextGen prototype took place alongside the inauguration of the new CityAirbus test center in Donauwörth. This facility will focus on testing systems for electric vertical takeoff and landing vehicles (eVTOLs). The center, part of Airbus' ongoing investment in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), initiated operations with the power-on of the CityAirbus NextGen in December 2023. It will be utilized for additional tests required before the prototype's first flight later this year, covering aspects such as electric motors, flight controls, and avionics.

Balkiz Sarihan, Head of Urban Air Mobility, Airbus said, "Rolling out CityAirbus NextGen for the very first time

is an important and very real step that we are taking towards advanced air mobility and our future product and market. Thank you to our community, team and partners all over the world for helping us make this a reality."

In parallel to these developments, Airbus is working to establish a global network and partnerships to create an ecosystem conducive to a successful and viable Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) market. Recently, Airbus entered into a partnership agreement with LCI, a leading aviation company. This collaboration will focus on developing partnership scenarios and business models across three core AAM areas: strategy, commercialization, and financing.

The unveiling of the CityAirbus NextGen prototype and the establishment of the new test center represent significant steps in Airbus' efforts to advance urban air mobility solutions and contribute to the development of a sustainable and efficient AAM market. The continued investment and collaboration with partners reflect Airbus' commitment to shaping the future of air transportation.



Avia Solutions Group takeovers Skytrans Airlines

Avia Solutions Group, with a fleet comprising 199 aircraft, has concluded the acquisition of Skytrans with a fleet of 13 regional aircraft allowing Avia Solutions Group to obtain an Australian Air Operator Certificate (AOC).

Avia Solutions Group, recognized as the world's largest ACMI (Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance, and Insurance) provider with a fleet comprising 199 aircraft, has successfully concluded the acquisition of Skytrans, an Australian airline specializing in Regular Public Transport (RPT) and charter operations. With Skytrans holding a fleet of 13 regional aircraft, the acquisition allows Avia Solutions Group to obtain an Australian Air Operator Certificate (AOC), opening avenues for passenger and cargo flight operations.

The move strategically positions Avia Solutions Group to tap into the thriving domestic aviation market in Australia. Projections from the Australian Aviation Network review of 2023 indicate that the market is expected to surpass pre-COVID levels in 2024. This acquisition aligns with the group's broader growth strategy in the Asia-Pacific region, providing flexibility to mitigate reduced seasonal demand in Europe by redistributing aircraft across counter-seasonal regions. The addition of the Australian AOC brings the total number of air operator certificates held by the group to 12.

"This acquisition is part of our larger strategy, which is aimed at limiting the impact of seasonality, whilst giving us access to new growing markets in Asia-Pacific and further afield. By the end of the year, we aim to establish or acquire 7 additional airlines, with countries like Thailand,

Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia firmly on our radar," said Jonas Janukenas, CEO, Avia Solutions Group.

Avia Solutions Group, headquartered in Ireland, serves as the parent company to several subsidiaries, including SmartLynx Airlines, Avion Express, AirExplore, KlasJet, Magma Aviation, and others, operating globally. The group is also a prominent provider of MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) services through FL Technics, with maintenance facilities in Lithuania, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, the group operates BAA Training, the largest independent pilot training organization with schools in Spain, France, Lithuania, and Vietnam.

"Passenger operations will be our main area of focus, with cargo being an area we're willing to explore and develop in 2024 and beyond. To achieve these goals, we have plans of expanding the fleet with A319 aircraft for passenger and with A321F for cargo transportation," said Gytis Gumuliauskas, Managing Director, Skytrans.

With a fleet of 199 aircraft and a workforce of 11,700 aviation professionals, Avia Solutions Group offers a diverse range of aviation services, encompassing ACMI, MRO, pilot and crew training, and ground handling. The acquisition of Skytrans strengthens the group's presence in the Asia-Pacific region and positions it for further expansion in dynamic markets.



Airbus secures framework agreement for up to 120 helicopters for THC fleet

The Airbus and THC agreement encompasses the acquisition of up to 120 Airbus helicopters including a firm order for eight H125 helicopters, with options from a previous contract to secure an additional 10 H145 helicopters.

Airbus and The Helicopter Company (THC), Saudi Arabia's premier provider of commercial helicopter services and fully owned by the Public Investment Fund, have taken a monumental step in its growth trajectory by signing a historic framework agreement. This transformative agreement encompasses the acquisition of up to 120 Airbus heli-

copters of various types, marking a strategic move set to unfold over the next five to seven years. The deal includes a firm order for eight H125s, complemented by the conversion of options from a previous contract to secure an additional 10 H145s. With this agreement, THC's total firm Airbus helicopter fleet is set to reach 60 aircraft, with 25

already in active service.

The acquisition of H125 helicopters aligns with THC's commitment to enhancing its range of services, particularly in the areas of aerial work and tourism. Meanwhile, the H145s are earmarked for deployment in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and corporate transport roles. The framework



continues to be a preferred choice in the industry. With over 40 million flight hours and more than 5,350 helicopters in operation, the H125 has established itself as a reliable workhorse.

Capt Arnaud Martinez, CEO, THC, said, "We are delighted to announce our framework agreement with Airbus, a transformative moment in our growth journey which solidifies our position as a global player as well as regional leader. The agreement will enable us to both contribute to the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goals through strengthening Saudi's aviation sector whilst also meeting the changing needs of our growing customer base, both locally and globally. Our collaboration with Airbus will reshape the aviation landscape as together, we will push the boundaries of innovation and showcase that with the right partner, everything is possible in aviation."

The H145, part of Airbus's four-tonne-class twin-engine rotorcraft family, offers exceptional performance throughout its flight envelope. With more than 1,675 helicopters in service and over 7.6 million flight hours, the H145 stands out for its mission capability, flexibility, and low acoustic footprint, making it the quietest helicopter in its class.

The framework agreement between THC and Airbus is more than a procurement deal; it represents a transformative potential for both entities. As THC continues its journey of growth and expansion, fueled by its commitment to excellence in helicopter services, Airbus's innovative and reliable rotorcraft will play a pivotal role. This collaboration positions THC and Airbus to push the boundaries of aviation possibilities, contributing to the development of the aviation sector in Saudi Arabia and beyond.

In conclusion, the historic framework agreement between THC and Airbus is a testament to the strong partnership between the two entities. It signifies THC's commitment to modernizing its helicopter fleet, offering a diverse range of services, and contributing to the growth of Saudi Arabia's aviation sector. As the aviation landscape evolves, THC and Airbus stand poised to drive innovation, showcase the potential of helicopter services, and play a key role in shaping the future of aviation in the region.

agreement underscores the strategic partnership between THC and Airbus, further solidifying THC's position as a global player and a key player in the development of Saudi Arabia's aviation ecosystem.

"Our relationship with THC started in 2020 with the first contract for 10 H125s. Since then, it's gone from strength to strength, moving beyond just helicopters to also look at how we can help pave the way for the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in the region. This latest framework agreement reinforces the scope of our offering and we thank THC for allowing us to help expand their helicopter activity," said Bruno Even, CEO, Airbus Helicopters.

THC, established as part of the Saudi

Public Investment Fund's strategy, is playing a pivotal role in developing commercial helicopter services in the Kingdom. Since its inception in mid-2019, THC has been at the forefront of introducing Airbus helicopters for various missions, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and supporting events such as the Dakar Rally. THC's commitment to building a robust aviation ecosystem aligns with the broader goals of Vision 2030, contributing to the Kingdom's aspirations in the aviation sector.

Airbus Helicopters has been a trusted partner for THC, and the framework agreement reinforces the depth of their collaboration. The worldwide best-selling H125, known for its robustness, versatility, and high performance,

In the aviation industry, aircraft maintenance plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety, reliability, and efficiency of flights. Advanced automation and robotics have found their way into many areas of aircraft maintenance, but some labour-intensive practices like routine washing have remained virtually without change for decades. However, this area is finally getting the technology it deserves, helping airlines cut both aircraft-on-ground times and costs.

Jo Alex Tanem, CEO of Nordic Dino Robotics AB, explores why striking the right balance between maintaining high standards of cleanliness and controlling costs is a constant challenge for airlines and how companies like Nordic Dino are contributing value to the aircraft cleaning process.

Importance of Aircraft Maintenance

Aircraft maintenance is not merely about repairing and servicing planes; it is a fundamental aspect of ensur-

The Economic Impact of a Clean Aircraft: Efficiency vs. Costs

ing passenger safety and operational efficiency. Regular maintenance checks contribute to the prevention of potential mechanical failures, enhancing the overall reliability of the aircraft. Additionally, well-maintained aircraft consume fuel more efficiently, thus reducing operational costs and environmental impact. However, aircraft maintenance encompasses more than some might think. For example, aircraft washing is an essential task that needs to be carried out every 60 to 90 days to save fuel, ensure safe operation, and maintain the appearance of the aircraft.

"Efficiency in aircraft maintenance involves streamlining processes to minimize downtime and maximize productivity," says Tanem. According to him, companies that utilize advanced technologies, predictive maintenance algorithms, and innovative ideas are reducing the need for extensive repairs and avoiding unplanned disruptions to flight schedules.

This is where aircraft-cleaning robots come in to help. "Using the Nordic Dino robots, companies can reduce aircraft exterior cleaning times by up to 80%. In the case of narrow-body jets like the Boeing 737, the required AOG time is reduced from 3 to just 1 hour. Similar time saving happens in the case of wide-body airliners like the Airbus A330 and the Boeing 777, where the AOG time can be dropped from 6 to 2 hours.

Knowing how expensive

hangar time can be at some airports, the introduction of robot-assisted washing can save an impressive sum over the course of a year," Tanem explains.

Cost Considerations

While maintaining high standards of cleanliness and safety is paramount, airlines are also focused on managing costs to remain competitive. The challenge lies in finding cost-effective solutions without compromising safety and operational efficiency. "This means finding other ways. They must analyze all their expenses, like fuel, maintenance, staff wages, and office costs. Making wise financial decisions is essential. By being smart with their spending and always considering costs, airlines can maintain safety while also staying financially strong in a competitive industry that's always changing", explains Tanem.

However, thinking about costs we must consider another part of it – the cost of work-related injuries. "These robots are equipped with advanced technology that enables them to safely operate at elevated positions, eliminating the need for workers to engage in such risky activities," says Tanem. Instead of having individuals scale heights, operators can control these robots remotely from a safe and stable location on the ground and minimize the likelihood of any incident.

At the same time, having a robot on site means that more aircraft can be serviced in the same period. Instead of spending most of their workday on a single aircraft, main-

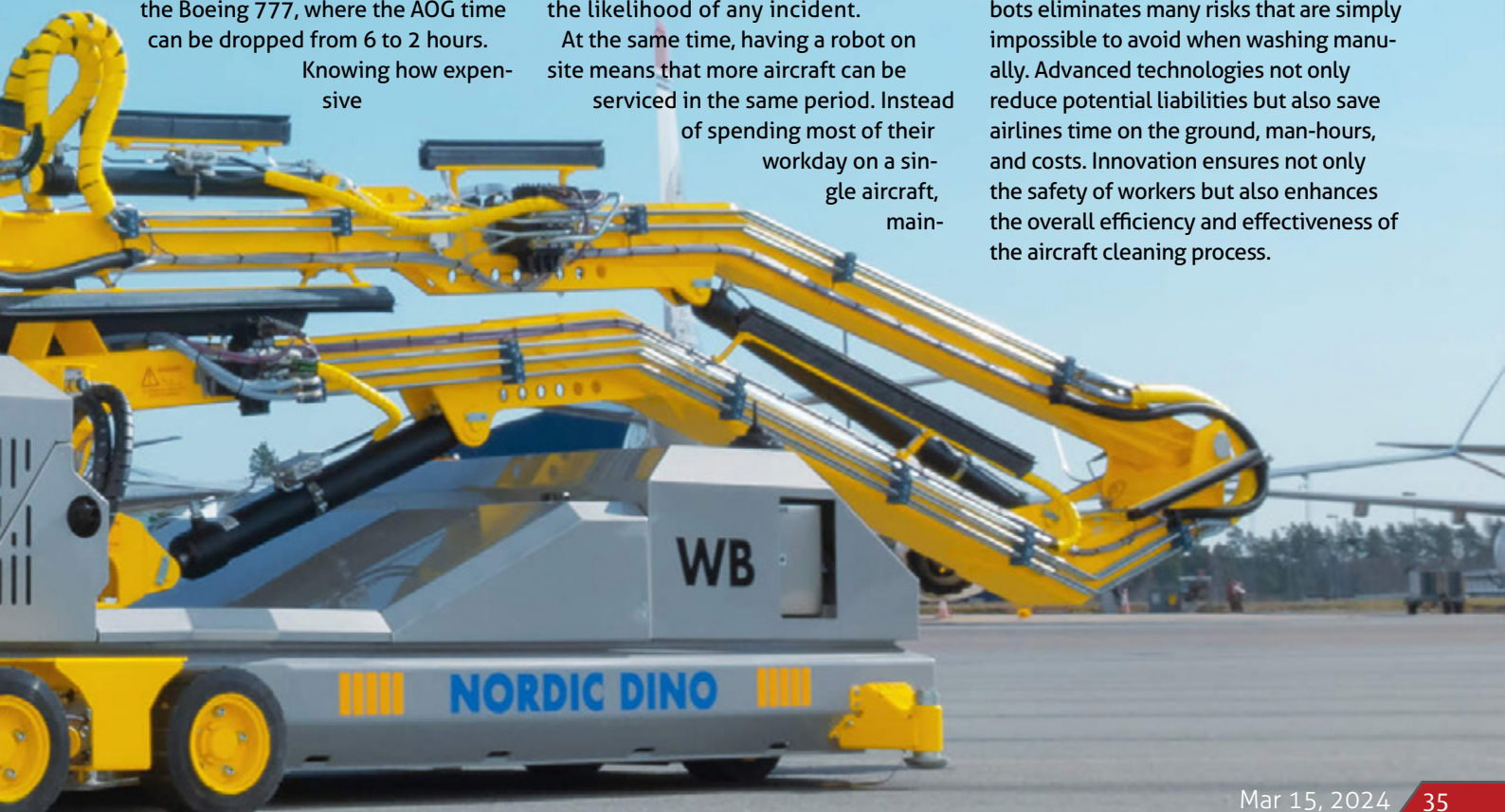
tenance crew members can focus on those areas where they bring the most value.

Delivering Value to Airlines and Employees

The integration of the latest technology into aircraft maintenance procedures has revolutionized the way airlines ensure the safety and reliability of their fleets, though some business areas remain untouched. According to Tanem, airlines leverage sophisticated sensor technology strategically placed throughout the aircraft to continuously monitor various. Such sensors collect real-time data on the performance, health, and condition of critical components such as engines, avionics, and airframes. The proactive approach facilitated by technology allows maintenance teams to detect irregularities or signs of wear before they escalate into more significant problems.

"It begs the question of why it is still not a common practice worldwide to employ aircraft cleaning robots. The investment results in an instant and long-lasting reduction in unnecessary maintenance costs and an extension of the overall lifespan of aircraft components. All of this provides significant economic benefits without any trade-offs," Tanem explains.

To conclude, using aircraft cleaning robots eliminates many risks that are simply impossible to avoid when washing manually. Advanced technologies not only reduce potential liabilities but also save airlines time on the ground, man-hours, and costs. Innovation ensures not only the safety of workers but also enhances the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the aircraft cleaning process.





Airbus Helicopters to deliver six H175 helicopters to SKYCO leasing

Airbus Helicopters and SKYCO have entered into a contract for the purchase of six H175 helicopters which will be deployed for search and rescue, emergency medical services, disaster relief, and other public services missions in China.

Airbus Helicopters and SKYCO International Financial Leasing Co., Ltd., a state-owned enterprise belonging to China's Guangdong Province, have entered into a contract for the purchase of six H175 helicopters. SKYCO Leasing, entrusted by the Guangdong Provincial Government to lead the aviation industry development in the province, will deploy the versatile H175 helicopters for search and rescue, emergency medical services, disaster relief, and other public services missions in China.

In addition to the helicopter acquisition, Airbus Helicopters and SKYCO Leasing have agreed to reinforce Airbus Helicopters' footprint in China's Guangdong Province and the Greater Bay Area. The collaboration includes joint development of support and services activities, along with an industrial cooperation setup to support the development of general aviation. This partnership aims to promote the reform of opening low-altitude airspace and explore an effective business model tailored to the Chinese

aviation market, contributing to regional economic growth.

"This cooperation goes far beyond the purchase of helicopters. It is an unmistakable sign of Guangdong Province's willingness to lead the development of the helicopter market in the southern region of China. We are proud that the Guangdong Provincial Government has chosen Airbus Helicopters to carry out this ambitious cooperation project together," said Bruno Even, CEO, Airbus Helicopters.

Airbus' H175, in service since 2015, belongs to the super-medium class of helicopters, offering a combination of long-range capabilities, payload capacity, and smooth flight qualities. It is suitable for a wide range of onshore and offshore missions, including disaster relief, search and rescue, public services, crew change, and private and business aviation. The H175 fleet, with 55 helicopters currently in service, has accumulated over 210,000 flight hours, including 184,000 hours in the energy sector.

Bell secures order for additional solo Bell 429 helicopter for QuikTrip Corporation

Bell Textron Inc has announced the signing of a purchase agreement with QuikTrip Corporation for their second Bell 429 helicopter as it operates a rapidly growing convenience store chain across 18 U.S. states.

Bell Textron Inc., a subsidiary of Textron Inc., has announced the signing of a purchase agreement with QuikTrip Corporation for their second Bell 429 helicopter. QuikTrip Corporation, widely known as QuikTrip (QT), operates a rapidly growing convenience store chain across 18 U.S. states. The addition of the Bell 429 helicopters to QT's corporate transport fleet is intended to facilitate the seamless transportation of executives to and from its more than 1,400 stores nationwide, reducing travel times significantly.

"Bell is thrilled that QuikTrip Corporation has chosen the Bell 429 platform to add to its existing corporate transport fleet that also includes a Bell 429 and Bell 407GX. This acquisition will complement and support the company's growing business needs," said Lane Evans, managing director for North America, Bell. "The Bell 429 continues to be an ideal platform for corporate and VIP transportation around the world for its versatility, comfort, and reliability," he further added.

The Bell 429 platform was selected for its versatility, comfort, and reliability, making it an ideal choice for corporate and VIP transportation needs. QuikTrip Corporation already operates a Bell 429 and a Bell 407GX, and the addition of another Bell 429 will complement the company's growing business requirements.

"QuikTrip is excited to add the comfort, reliability and overall performance of another Bell to our fleet and we are looking forward our continued strong and long-lasting relationship with the Bell team," said Stuart Sullivan, VP/CFO, QuikTrip.

The Bell 429 helicopter features a spacious cabin with seating for six people and generous legroom, providing a comfortable environment for business travel. Equipped with BasixPro avionics and satellite-based guidance systems, the Bell 429 offers operators critical information during flight, enhancing safety and efficiency.



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American Airlines orders 115 Boeing 737 MAX

American Airlines significantly expands its Boeing 737 MAX order, aiming to modernize its fleet and leverage the 737-10's efficiency and range for domestic and short-haul international routes.

American Airlines announced a major commitment to modernize its fleet, placing a substantial order for 115 Boeing 737-10 airplanes. This order, which includes both new purchases and conversions from previous orders, more than doubles American's existing commitment to the 737 MAX family, reaching over 150 airplanes.

This strategic move reflects American's focus on fuel efficiency and operational flexibility. The 737-10, the largest variant in the MAX family, boasts superior fuel efficiency and per-seat economics compared to its predecessors. Its range of up to 3,100 nautical miles makes it suitable for various domestic and short-haul international routes, allowing American to optimize its network and cater to growing travel demand.

By incorporating the 737-10 alongside its existing 737-8 fleet, American leverages the commonality and flexibility within the 737 MAX family. This translates to simplified maintenance procedures, streamlined crew training, and operational efficiency, ultimately contributing to improved customer experiences.

Boeing, welcoming this renewed trust from American Airlines, emphasized its commitment to delivering on this order and supporting American's strategic growth plan. With these additions, American anticipates incorporating over 180 new Boeing airplanes, including both 737 MAX and 787 Dreamliners, into its fleet within the next decade.

Joramco signs latest MRO agreement with TUI

Joramco has announced a new maintenance agreement with TUI as Joramco will undertake heavy checks on five Boeing 787 aircraft in TUI's fleet.

Joramco, the aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility based in Amman and owned by Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE), has announced a new maintenance agreement with TUI, reinforcing the enduring partnership between the two companies. This long-term agreement signifies another milestone in their successful collaboration and underscores the commitment to ongoing cooperation. As part of the new agreement, Joramco will undertake heavy checks on five Boeing 787 aircraft in TUI's fleet.

The selection of Joramco for this critical maintenance work reflects TUI's confidence in the MRO's expertise and reinforces their dedication to receiving top-notch maintenance services. With over 60 years of experience, Joramco has established itself as a leading independent MRO facility, catering to diverse customers across the Middle East, Europe, South Asia, Africa, and the CIS countries. The facility offers services for various aircraft models from Airbus, Boeing, and Embraer fleets.

Situated strategically in a free zone area at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman, Jordan, Joramco's facility comprises five hangars capable of accommodating up to 17 aircraft simultaneously. The MRO is certified by several international regulatory authorities, including the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Jordan's Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (JCARC).

Fraser Currie, CEO, Joramco said, "We are thrilled to share our latest agreement with TUI for their B787 fleet. This partnership further solidifies our standing as a trusted global MRO provider known for delivering exceptional services. Our extensive experience in maintaining and repairing this aircraft has enabled us to offer our valued clients the same level of expertise and dedication. This collaboration is a testament to our strong and enduring partnership, and we couldn't be more confident in its success."

This new agreement with TUI further underscores Joramco's position as a reliable and expert MRO provider, emphasizing its commitment to delivering high-quality services to its clients. The partnership reflects the continued trust that airlines place in Joramco for maintaining and servicing their fleets, contributing to the MRO's continued success in the aviation industry.

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Boeing to deliver up to 20 B777X aircraft for Ethiopian Airlines fleet expansion

Boeing and Ethiopian Airlines have announced an agreement for eight 777-9 passenger jets, with the potential for an additional 12 jets building on its landmark 2023 order for 11 787 Dreamliner and 20 737 MAX airplanes.



Boeing and Ethiopian Airlines have announced a significant agreement for the East African carrier to purchase eight 777-9 passenger airplanes, with the potential for an additional 12 jets. This deal solidifies Ethiopian Airlines as the first 777X customer in Africa and builds on its landmark 2023 order for 11 787 Dreamliner and 20 737 MAX airplanes, demonstrating its commitment to modernize and expand its fleet.

The selection of 777-9 jets by Ethiopian Airlines showcases its commitment to adopting cutting-edge technologies to enhance operational performance, customer satisfaction, and environmental sustainability. The 777-9, based on the 777 platform and incorporating advanced technologies from the 787 Dreamliner family, features new carbon-fiber composite wings and engines that contribute to 10% better fuel efficiency and lower operating costs compared to competitors. These characteristics align with Ethiopian Airlines' plans to grow and renew its fleet, addressing high-demand markets in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

"We are pleased to continue setting the trend in African aviation by adopting cutting-edge technologies to enhance our services and customer satisfaction. Improving our operational performance and commitment to environmental sustainability, the 777-9 offers more flexibility, reduced fuel consumption and carbon emissions," said Mesfin Tasew, CEO, Ethiopian Airlines Group. "We are grateful to Boeing for their long-standing partnership and support, and we eagerly anticipate flying the 777-9 across the African skies and beyond," he further added.

Ethiopian Airlines has been a long-time customer of Boeing, with more than half of its current fleet consisting of Boeing aircraft, including 29 787 Dreamliners, 20 777s, three 767s, 27 Next-Generation 737s, and 15 737 MAX jets. Beyond the commercial aspect, Boeing and Ethiopian Airlines are exploring opportunities to contribute to the development of Ethiopia's aerospace industry. This includes supporting Ethiopian Airlines' main-

tenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capabilities, industrial development, training programs at the Ethiopian Aviation University, and STEM education initiatives.

Brad McMullen, Senior Vice President of Commercial Sales and Marketing, Boeing said, "Ethiopian Airlines marks yet another first in our longstanding partnership by selecting the 777-9 to be the flagship of its growing fleet. Building on a relationship that goes back 75 years, we deeply value the unwavering trust and confidence Ethiopian Airlines puts in our airplanes."

Boeing's Commercial Market Outlook forecasts robust growth in Africa's annual air traffic, exceeding 7% through 2042 – the third-highest growth rate globally, surpassing the global average of approximately 6%. With its range of 13,510 km (7,295 nautical miles), the 777-9 provides growth opportunities for airlines, offering enhanced features for passengers. Notably, the aircraft enables direct flights from Addis Ababa to destinations as far as Seattle in the United States.



American Airlines finalizes places orders for major fleet boost

American Airlines has signed orders for 260 new Airbus, Boeing, and Embraer aircraft including 85 A321neo, 85 737 MAX 10, and 90 E175 aircraft. with further secured options and purchase rights for an additional 193 aircraft.

American Airlines has announced a significant fleet expansion and modernization plan, placing orders for a total of 260 new aircraft from Airbus, Boeing, and Embraer. The order includes 85 Airbus A321neo, 85 Boeing 737 MAX 10, and 90 Embraer E175 aircraft. In addition to firm orders, the airline has secured options and purchase rights for an additional 193 aircraft. The move is part of American's strategy to expand premium seats across its narrowbody and regional fleets, supporting the long-term growth of its domestic and short-haul international network.

Airbus A321neo Order:

American Airlines has placed an order for 85 Airbus A321neo aircraft. The A321neo has been a reliable workhorse for the airline, flying customers across the U.S. and to short-haul international destinations for the past decade. This aircraft order reaffirms American's com-

mitment to the A321 family, known for its efficiency and versatility. The airline currently holds the title of the largest single-carrier operator of A320 family aircraft globally.

"Over the past decade, we have invested heavily to modernize and simplify our fleet, which is the largest and youngest among U.S. network carriers," said Robert Isom, CEO, American. "These orders will continue to fuel our fleet with newer, more efficient aircraft so we can continue to deliver the best network and record-setting operational reliability for our customers," he further added.

Boeing 737 MAX 10 Order:

American Airlines has ordered 85 Boeing 737 MAX 10 aircraft, emphasizing the airline's commitment to Boeing's MAX family. The 737 MAX 10 is the largest variant in the MAX series, offering greater efficiency, commonality, and

flexibility for global network operations. This order includes the upgauging of 30 existing 737 MAX 8 orders to 737 MAX 10 aircraft, providing American with fleet flexibility.

"We are very pleased to continue our longstanding partnerships with Airbus, Boeing and Embraer with these orders," said Devon May, Chief Financial Officer, American. "As we look into the next decade, American will have a steady stream of new aircraft alongside a balanced level of capital investment, which will allow us to expand our network and deliver for our shareholders," he further added.

Embraer E175 Order:

American Airlines has placed an order for 90 Embraer E175 aircraft, making it the largest single order of E175s by the airline. These dual-class regional jets with premium seating, high-speed satellite Wi-Fi, and in-seat power will

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Image Courtesy: Quintin Soloviev

play a crucial role in connecting smaller markets to American's global network. The new E175s will be operated by American's wholly owned regional carriers.

"The continued investment in the A321neo is a testament to the unprecedented value of the world's most versatile and capable single-aisle aircraft," said Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, EVP Sales, Commercial Aircraft, Airbus. "For nearly two decades, American Airlines has used its A320 family of aircraft, some of which have been produced in the U.S. in Mobile, Alabama, to grow its domestic and short-haul international network and provide an exceptional experience for its passengers and crews," he further added.

Fleet Modernization and Enhancement: American Airlines plans to retire all of its 50-seat single-class regional jets by the end of the decade, focusing on bringing larger, dual-class regional aircraft into its fleet. The airline will retrofit its A319 and A320 aircraft starting in 2025, refreshing the interior with power at every seat, larger overhead

bins, and new seats with updated trim and finish. The A319 fleet will see an increase in premium seats to a total of 12 domestic first-class seats, while the A320 fleet retrofits will bring the domestic first-class seat count to 16.

Long-Term Growth and Investment:

"We deeply appreciate American Airlines' trust in Boeing and its confidence in the 737 MAX family. American's selection of the 737-10 will provide even greater efficiency, commonality and flexibility for its global network and operations," said Stan Deal, president and CEO, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "Our team here at Boeing is committed to delivering on this new order and supporting American's strategic growth with one of the industry's largest and most modern fleets," he further added.

With the latest orders, American Airlines now has 440 aircraft on order, extending its order book into the next decade. The airline has taken delivery of over 600 mainline and regional aircraft since 2014, reinforcing its commit-

ment to a modern and efficient fleet.

"The E175 is truly the backbone of the U.S. aviation network, connecting all corners of the country," said Arjan Meijer, CEO, Embraer Commercial Aviation. "One of the world's most successful aircraft programs, the E175 was upgraded with a series of modifications that improved fuel burn by 6.5%. This modern, comfortable, reliable and efficient aircraft continues to deliver the connectivity the U.S. depends on day after day. This represents American's largest-ever single order of E175s, and we thank American for its continued trust in our products and people," he further added.

The strategic decisions, including the upgauging of existing orders, signify American Airlines' focus on providing enhanced customer experiences, operational efficiency, and environmental sustainability. The continued collaboration with Airbus, Boeing, and Embraer reflects the airline's confidence in its longstanding partnerships and the capabilities of the respective aircraft manufacturers.



American Airlines Orders 85 Additional A321neo Aircraft

American Airlines has added 85 more A321neo aircraft to its fleet, making it the largest A321 fleet in the world.

American Airlines' A321neo aircraft.

American Airlines, one of the major US-based airlines headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, has placed a order for additional 85 A321neo aircraft, which are renowned for their fuel efficiency and passenger comfort, further solidifying its commitment to modernizing its fleet, taking its total order for the aircraft type to 219 aircraft. American Airlines took delivery of its first A321neo in February 2019, and 70 have been delivered as of January 31, 2024.

Robert Isom, CEO, American Airlines said, "Over the past decade, we have invested heavily to modernise and simplify our fleet, which is the largest and youngest among U.S. network carriers. These orders will continue to fuel our fleet with newer, more efficient aircraft so we can continue to deliver the best network and record-setting operational reliability for our customers."

In addition to being the biggest user of A321neos in North America, American Airline is also the biggest operator of Airbus A320 Family aircraft worldwide. Over ninety

customers worldwide have ordered over six hundred A321neos to date. The A321neo boasts several advantages, including a 50% reduction in noise compared to previous generation single-aisle aircraft, over 20% fuel savings, and a lower carbon footprint thanks to its new generation engines and Sharklets.

Benoît de Saint-Exupéry, EVP Sales, Commercial Aircraft, Airbus said, "The continued investment in the A321neo is a testament to the unprecedented value of the world's most versatile and capable single aisle aircraft. For nearly two decades, American Airlines has used its A320 Family of aircraft, some of which have been produced in the U.S. in Mobile, Alabama, to grow its domestic and short-haul international network and provide an exceptional experience for its passengers and crews."

Additionally, the A321neo offers the widest single-aisle cabins, maximizing passenger comfort. This investment strengthens American Airlines' position as the world's largest operator of the Airbus A320 Family and the largest user of A321neos in North America.



Boeing partners with AIESL to provide MRO for training in India

The Boeing and AI Engineering Services Limited partnership involves Boeing providing training materials, aids, and instructor support meanwhile AIESL will offer infrastructure and instructors while seeking approval from the DGCA.

Boeing and AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) have entered into a collaborative effort to enhance aircraft maintenance training in India. The partnership involves Boeing providing training materials, aids, and instructor support to ensure the standardization of AIESL's training programs. On the other hand, AIESL will offer infrastructure and instructors while seeking approval from the Indian regulatory authority, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), for conducting maintenance training for customers.

"The collaboration with AIESL strengthens and supports the development of Boeing's customer-focused capability in the region," said Chris Broom, vice president, Commercial

Training Solutions, Boeing Global Services. "Through working together, we anticipate Boeing and AIESL will be well positioned to provide high-quality maintenance training while contributing to the overall safety and efficiency of aviation in India," he further added.

Meeting the strong industry demand for trained maintenance technicians in India is crucial for the expansion of in-country expertise. According to Boeing's 2023 Pilot and Technician Outlook, India will require nearly 33,000 pilots and 34,000 maintenance technicians through 2042. The collaboration with AIESL is expected to expand local capacity to deliver comprehensive training programs, ensuring compliance with DGCA CAR-66 regulations.

"By partnering with AIESL, we are investing in the future of aircraft maintenance capability in India. This collaboration demonstrates our commitment to nurturing local talent to support the growth of the indigenous MRO industry," said Salil Gupte, president, Boeing India and South Asia.

The collaboration between Boeing and AIESL is part of the Boeing India Repair Development and Sustainment (BIRDS) hub program. The BIRDS hub is a local network of suppliers working to build a robust MRO ecosystem for defense and commercial aircraft in India. It focuses on developing sub-tier suppliers, Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs), and training programs to enhance skilled manpower and build high-quality MRO

capabilities in the country.

"The tie up with Boeing on maintenance training in the fastest growing aviation market will go a long way in supporting industry requirements. AIESL would be able to support training requirements for at least 100 engineers each year going forward," said Sharad Agarwal, CEO, AIESL.

Boeing has played a pivotal role in India's aerospace sector for over 80 years, contributing significantly to the country's commercial aviation growth and the modernization of its defense forces. The company is committed to delivering value to Indian customers through advanced technologies and sustainable practices in the aerospace sector. Boeing aligns its business strategy with India's "Make in India" and "Skill India" initiatives, focusing on manufacturing,

co-production, co-development, skill development, and innovation.

"Collaboration between OEM expertise such as Boeing's and local capability such as that of AIESL, is integral to our vision for a sustainable and competitive aviation and MRO industry. By working together in aircraft maintenance, we strengthen our position on the global stage," said Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.

Boeing's engagement in India includes investments in local suppliers, collaborations with academic and research institutions, and efforts to enhance airspace management. The company's commitment to the Indian aerospace industry extends to sourcing, with an annual expenditure of \$1 billion from a network of over 300 suppliers. Boeing's operations in India provide employment

opportunities, with over 6,000 people directly employed by Boeing and more than 13,000 working with its supply chain partners.

"Partnership between an aircraft manufacturer and a maintenance training organization augurs well for budding engineers who would undergo trainings as per best training aids, standards and practices, in conformity with the prescribed regulatory framework, raising safety standards in maintenance in the long run," said Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Director General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The Boeing-AIESL collaboration aims to provide advanced maintenance training in the rapidly growing aviation market in India, contributing to industry requirements, safety standards, and the long-term development of aviation and MRO capabilities in the country.

Embraer and CAE launch the first E-Jets E2 full flight simulator in Asia Pacific

Embraer and CAE inaugurate the CAE 7000XR Series simulator as part of a comprehensive CBTA pilot training program at the Singapore-CAE Flight Training Centre near Changi Airport.

Embraer and CAE, leaders in the aviation industry, have joined forces to establish a significant milestone in Asia-Pacific aviation for the first E-Jets E2 full flight simulator (FFS) in Singapore, marking a new chapter in pilot training and regional growth. The state-of-the-art training facility, situated near Changi Airport, will serve E2 operators across the region, equipping pilots with the necessary skills and experience to ensure safe and efficient operation of the advanced E-Jets E2 aircraft.

Elaine Teo, Senior Vice President, Global Enterprises Division, Singapore Economic Development Board said, "Embraer and CAE's launch of the E-Jets E2 full-flight simulator in Singapore is the first of its kind in Asia Pacific. Not only does it add to the suite of aftermarket services in Singapore, it is a valuable addition to the region's aerospace and aviation ecosystem. We look forward to collaborating with industry partners to build capabilities that fuel the growth in APAC and enhance the

skills of aerospace and aviation talent in the region, from Singapore."

The comprehensive training program offered by the E2 FFS goes beyond traditional methods. It incorporates CAE's innovative Competency-Based Training Assessment (CBTA) courseware, interactive classroom instruction utilizing the CAE Simfinity virtual simulator (VSIM), and immersive practical training in the new CAE 7000XR Series FFS.

Michel Azar-Hmouda, CAE's Division President, Civil Aviation Training, said, "The start of training and the official inauguration of the first state-of-the-art E2 full flight simulator in the Asia Pacific region is a significant milestone in the growth and success of Embraer-CAE Flight Training. Technology is at the core of the new E2 program, with CAE's VSIM, CBTA courseware and latest-generation FFS preparing pilots for the entry-into-service and safe operation of the E2 in the APAC region."

This combined approach ensures pilots receive a well-rounded education, encompassing theoretical knowledge,

practical application, and familiarization with real-world scenarios.

Carlos Naufel, President & CEO of Embraer Services & Support said, "We celebrate the successful operations of the E2 simulator and comprehensive pilot training program and thank all our partners and employees who have been involved in this process. This is part of Embraer's commitment to grow our infrastructure in Asia Pacific and to contribute to the region's aviation growth story. Along with CAE, we remain committed to providing high-quality training to our customers and their pilots."

This collaborative effort between Embraer, CAE, and Singapore paves the way for a future of enhanced pilot training and a more robust aviation sector in the Asia-Pacific region. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and fostering collaboration, this initiative equips pilots with the necessary skills to navigate the skies safely and efficiently, contributing to the continued growth and success of the aviation industry.

Magnetic Group selects AMOS for digitised software maintenance needs

Magnetic Group Streamlines Maintenance with Swiss-AS's AMOS Platform

Magnetic Group has signed up Swiss Aviation Software (Swiss-AS) for its maintenance needs. The project is estimated to be completed within 12-14 months. According to Swiss-AS the AMOS MRO Edition extends the scope of AMOS features with "pure-play" MRO-functions demonstrating a significant commitment to optimising the maintenance management capabilities.

Praising AMOS for its reliability and efficiency, Jan Kotka, COO at Magnetic Group says: "AMOS offers integration with our AI solutions and seamless data sharing with partners. This enhances our operational transparency and decision-making, streamlining processes and improving cooperation across our supply chain."

The implementation strategy comprises multiple phases, with Phase 1 focusing on deploying AMOS across Magnetic MRO's operations, Phase 2 will involve the addition of a dedicated entity for Magnetic Line. The "Multi-Entity" functions in AMOS will enable Magnetic Group to facilitate the consolidation of financially

independent entities within one system, offering independent financial management, centralised logistics modules, entity-specific financial tracking, and the ability to manage transactions between entities.

For swift and seamless implementation, Swiss-AS will provide a comprehensive "Train-the-Trainer" approach for Magnetic MRO technicians, facilitating knowledge transfer and empowering employees to leverage AMOS's full potential effectively.

Magnetic Group has chosen AMOS after an extensive assessment due to its functional depth, cutting-edge technology, and Swiss-AS' expertise, says Swiss-AS.

Further describing the work of AMOS, Swiss-AS says, one of the key advantages of Magnetic Group joining the AMOS community is the seamless exchange of information and synergies it fosters. With many of their customers already utilising AMOS, this integration will facilitate data exchange via AMOScentral and enhanced collaboration in managing work packages and maintenance operations.





Boeing Secures \$3.4 Billion Contract for 17 P-8A Poseidon Aircraft from Canada and Germany

Boeing has received a \$3.4 billion U.S. Navy contract for the 14 P-8A Poseidon aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force and an additional three P-8s for the German Navy, with Canada replacing its existing CP-140 Auroras.

Boeing has been awarded a substantial \$3.4 billion U.S. Navy contract to initiate the production of 14 P-8A Poseidon aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force and an additional three P-8s for the German Navy. This significant contract follows Canada's decision in November 2023 to opt for the P-8A Poseidon as a replacement for its existing CP-140 Auroras. The initial delivery of the P-8A for Canada is anticipated in 2026. With the P-8 acquisition, Boeing's economic commitments to Canada are expected to generate substantial benefits, including over 3,000 jobs for Canadian industry and value-chain partners annually. Additionally, the economic impact is projected to contribute at least \$358 million to Canada's gross domestic product over a 10-year period.

Canada's Team Poseidon, a collaboration that includes CAE, GE Aviation Canada, IMP Aerospace & Defence, KF Aerospace, Honeywell Aerospace Canada, Raytheon Canada, and StandardAero, is at the forefront of building capabilities and economic benefits. The team builds on the foundation of 81 Canadian suppliers to the P-8 platform and over 550 suppliers across all provinces,

contributing significantly to Boeing's annual economic benefit of approximately CAD \$4 billion to Canada and supporting more than 14,000 Canadian jobs.

"We are proud to add Canada to the list of international P-8 partners as well as to Germany's fleet of maritime patrol aircraft," said Philip June, vice president and program manager for P-8A program, Boeing. "The Poseidon is a proven aircraft, with more than 600,000 flight hours, that will serve Canada and Germany well in today's challenging security environment and for decades to come," he further added.

Following the initial procurement of five P-8 aircraft in June 2021, Germany has expanded its fleet with an additional three aircraft, bringing the total to eight P-8s for the German Navy. The first delivery is scheduled for 2025, replacing the country's existing fleet of P-3 Orions. Boeing has partnered with ESG Elektroniksystem-und Logistik-GmbH (ESG) and Lufthansa Technik in Germany to deliver systems integration, training, support, and sustainment work, ensuring the highest operational availability for fulfilling the German Navy's missions.

"Our global customers require proven advanced capabilities to protect their countries — the P-8 provides that defense," said Vince Logsdon, vice president, International Business Development, Boeing Defense, Space & Security and Global Services. "Together with our partners, we look forward to delivering this unmatched capability in addition to significant industrial benefits for Canada's and Germany's aerospace and defense industries," he further added.

In 2023, Boeing and CAE entered teaming agreements to enhance collaboration in multi-mission platform training solutions for the P-8A Poseidon program in Canada, Germany, and Norway. These agreements leverage the complementary capabilities of both companies to deliver superior management, technical expertise, and cost-effective training solutions.

With 200 P-8s currently in service or on contract across nine countries, including the United States, Australia, India, United Kingdom, Norway, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Germany, and Canada, Boeing's P-8A Poseidon continues to be a critical asset for maritime patrol and surveillance missions globally.



Summit Aviation names Robert Flansburg as the new director of operations

Robert Flansburg as Director of Operations at Summit Aviation will oversee the MRO operations at their FAA Certified Repair Station also ensuring compliance with rigorous federal aviation standards, including FAR, DFARS, and ITAR.

Summit Aviation Inc. has appointed Robert Flansburg as its new Director of Operations, effective March 11. With a career spanning over three decades in aerospace maintenance, repair, completions, and operations, Robert Flansburg brings extensive experience to his new role. His previous senior roles include positions at Boeing Vertical Lift, Sikorsky Helicopters, and DeCrane Aerospace. Before joining Summit Aviation, he served as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of Special Command Programs for L3 Harris Technologies.

As the Director of Operations at Summit Aviation, Robert Flansburg will oversee the maintenance operations of the company's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certified Repair Station. His responsibilities include ensuring compliance with rigorous federal aviation standards, including Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), among other regulatory frameworks.

"Robert's extensive background and proven track record in aviation operations make him the ideal leader to advance our maintenance and completions operations," said Tom Lark, vice president and general manager, Summit Aviation. "His strategic vision and commitment to excellence are key to our continued success. We are excited to see the heights our operations will reach under his guidance," he further added.

In his new role, Robert Flansburg will work closely with Summit team leaders to maintain a seamless operational flow, emphasizing the importance of quality, compliance, and strategic alignment across all departments. Summit Aviation's commitment to upholding the highest standards in aviation operations will be a key focus under Robert Flansburg's leadership.

The appointment of Robert Flansburg comes as Summit Aviation seeks to leverage his expertise to enhance its maintenance and completions operations. Summit Aviation operates with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certified Repair Station, ensuring that its aircraft maintenance adheres to the stringent regulatory standards set by aviation authorities.

The announcement signals Summit Aviation's dedication to maintaining excellence in its operations and aligning with industry standards under the leadership of Robert Flansburg. His strategic vision and wealth of experience position him as an ideal leader to drive Summit Aviation's continued success in the aerospace industry.



Air Partner announces Clive Chalmers as the Senior Vice President of Group Charter

Clive Chalmers becomes the new Senior Vice President for United Kingdoms and Rest of the World, working closely with Simon Moore, SVP Group Charter US.

Air Partner, a global leading full-service logistics provider, announced the new designation of Clive Chalmers as the new Senior Vice President (SVP) of Group Charter for the UK and the Rest of the World (RoW). Clive Chalmers began his career at Air Partner 25 years ago supporting brokers as a market researcher and has worked his way up to his new role which will focus on developing Air Partner's presence in territories such as Germany, Italy and France. As well as exploring new areas for growth, Clive's role will also look at continuing

to build and expand relationships in key sectors including government and defence, MICE, oil and gas, automotive, sports, and entertainment.

Kevin Macnaughton, Managing Director, Charter at Air Partner, said, "As we embark on this exciting next stage of Air Partner's journey to expand our offering across Europe, having the right leadership in place is imperative. Clive's unparalleled dedication, experience and enthusiasm of Air Partner and the industry as a whole makes him the perfect fit for this role and I'm confident in his

ability to take the business to the next level."

In addition to this primary focus, Clive will be looking after the overall product strategy, attracting and retaining top talent, marketing, supply and technology. The role will see him work closely with Simon Moore, SVP Group Charter US, to deliver on the overall Group Charter strategy.

Clive Chalmers, SVP of Group Charter for the UK and RoW, said, "Working for Air Partner for over two decades has been an incredibly rewarding journey that has

given me great satisfaction and growth. It is a privilege to be taking on this new role and I look forward to using the experience I've gained from across the business to navigate this new chapter and uphold our unwavering commitment to a 'customer first' approach."

Clive first joined Air Partner in 1998 where he started out as Broker Support for the ACMI & Leasing team. He has since held a variety of roles throughout the business including Ops Duty Officer, Senior Broker, Trading Manager and Trading Director.

International CALENDAR

2024

Date	Event	Venue
26 – 27 Mar 2024	MRO Central Asia	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
09 – 11 April 2024	MRO Americas	Chicago, USA
17 – 18 April 2024	Aerospace Tech Week Europe	Munich, Germany
17 – 19 April 2024	Vietnam Aviation Forum	Hanoi, Vietnam
24 – 25 Apr 2024	Aero-Engines Asia-Pacific	Hong Kong
28 – 30 May 2024	Aircraft Interiors EXPO	Hamburg, Germany
28 – 30 May 2024	EBACE 2024	Geneva, Switzerland
30 Apr – 2 May 2024	Global Aerospace Summit 2024	Abu Dhabi, UAE
02 – 04 June 2024	IATA AGM & World Air Transport Summit	Dubai, UAE
05 – 06 June 2024	Engine Leasing, Trading & Finance Europe	London, UK
06 – 08 Jun 2024	France Air Expo Lyon 2024	Lyon, France
12 – 14 June 2024	Aircraft Cabin Innovation Summit USA 2024	Dallas Fort Worth, Texas
16 – 22 June 2024	Paris Air Show	Le Bourget Exhibition Centre
26 – 27 June 2024	MRO BEER	Vilnius, Lithuania
02 – 05 Sept 2024	Egypt International Airshow 2024	Egypt
10 – 11 Sept 2024	AeroEngines Europe	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
08 – 10 Oct 2024	World Aviation Festival 2024	RAI, Amsterdam
24 – 26 Sept 2024	MRO Asia-Pacific	Singapore
22 – 24 Oct 2024	MRO Europe	Barcelona, Spain
13 – 14 Nov 2024	MRO Australia	Brisbane, Australia

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